
DU PLESSIS's
M E M O I R S:
O R,
Variety of ADVENTURES.

Vol. II.

A

DE PLE 2212
MEMORIAL

Variety of ADVENTURES.

DE PLE 2212

Characters and Reflections, moral, satirical,
M - English



A Description of some of the most curious and interesting
the most valuable and the most rare

Variety of ADVENTURES.

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II

By the Author of the
and first volume, in 1781.

A

DE PLE 2212

Printed by George F. Lister, in the Strand

MCCCLV

DU PLESSIS's
M E M O I R S:
O R,

Variety of ADVENTURES.

INTERSPERS'D WITH

Characters and Reflections, moral, satirical,
instructive and humourous.

WITH

A Description of some Strolling-Players, amongst whom
the Memorialist travell'd a while, before his last
Departure from *England*.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

*Nos hæc Novimus esse Nihil,
Sed quot Homines, tot Sententiæ.*

D U B L I N :

Printed by GEORGE FAULKNER, in *Essex-Street*.

M,DCC,LVII.

CONTENTS

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

CHAP. I.

C*aptain Ranken arrives at Port-Royal. His brutal Behaviour to me and Thompson. I gain his Confidence, by a pretended Fondness for every Thing he proposes. He takes from me all my Money and my Necessaries, under Pretence of keeping them safe for me. Set sail for the Plantation.* pag. 1

CHAP. II.

Account of what happened on the Plantation, during Ranken's Absence. Description of our House, Furniture, &c. Ranken's Observation to me, and my Reply on it. The Nature of my Employment. Small Difference between the Negroes and myself, in regard to Labour. A 3. Cruel

CONTENTS.

Cruel Treatment of Thompson.——Of the Negroes, Reflections on it. Thompson found, in his Cave, starved to Death pag. 6

C H A P. III.

Procure the Love of Ranken and his Overseer. Consequences of it. Description of some particular Birds and Beasts, Natives of Carolina. Account of the different Species of Drudgery I was employed in at the Plantation 12

C H A P. IV.

Immediate Business calls Ranken to Charles-Town. He takes me with him to Port-Royal. I endeavour at an Escape. A lucky Accident in my Favour 16

C H A P. V.

Civility of the Master of a Ferryboat-House. Set out from thence on Horseback, in Company with a Gentleman's Servant for Charles-Town 20

C H A P. VI.

Account of our Entertainment on the Road. Nearly escape Detection at a Gentleman's Plantation, whom my Guide had Business to call on. A Description of dangerous Swamps. Arrive at Charles-Town. Send for Pattison, one of my Fellow-Passengers 23

C H A P. VII.

Mrs. Schemerhorn's (my Landlady's) Surprise, on my discovering myself to her. Had heard of my Distresses, and by what Means. Pattison likewise ignorant of 25

CONTENTS

me at first Sight. He goes with me to Fortescue Rogers, Esq; Make my Complaint to him against Ranken. That Gentleman gives me a Letter to deliver to him pag. 28

CHAP. VIII.

Hear bad News, concerning Mr. Bowman. Pattison goes with me to Ranken. Deliver him the Letter from Mr. Rogers. Consequence of it. Mr. Rogers, engages for my Passage to London. Leave a Power of Attorney with Mr. Bahan, for the Recovery of my Right from Ranken, and return to my Lodging 32

CHAP. IX.

Bid adieu to all Friends. Character of Pattison. Set sail for England. Arrive safe. Go immediately, on my landing, to Mrs. Miller's. Her unkind Reception of me 36

CHAP. X.

My destitute Circumstances. Resolve to go to Mr. Bowman's. Call first in the Neighbourhood, at his Peruke-Maker's. Hear there of that Gentleman's melancholy Catastrophe, and the deplorable State of his Family. Reflections on their Cases, and that of my own. Character of Morse, the Barber. Description of his Housekeeping. The Kindness of his Apprentice. A Description of Morse's Ingratitude. Take a Lodging. The People of the House—their Behaviour to me 39

CHAP. XI.

Go on Board the Ship, in order to fetch my Chest. Reception from the Captain, &c.

CHAP. 44

CONTENTS

CHAP. XII.

Meet an old Acquaintance. Odd Adventure at an Ale-house pag. 48

CHAP. XIII.

The Adventure at the Alehouse continued and ended. Some Account of an Accident that befel my Friend Bloomer. Kindness of my Landlady. 52

CHAP. XIV.

Receive a Letter from Mr. Egerton. Contents of it. A farther Account given by Bloomer, of the Accident that happened to him, &c. 55

CHAP. XV.

Bloomer relates the Posture of his Affairs. Fetch my Chest from on Board 58

CHAP. XVI.

Propose Bloomer to my Landlady, for a Partner in my Lodging; to which she agrees. Some good News. Hear of the Death of Jonathan. 61

CHAP. XVII.

Treachery of Bloomer. Offer myself for a Soldier. Refused. Meet accidentally with one Sutton, an old Acquaintance and School-Fellow 67

CHAP.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. XVIII.

Sutton advises me to turn Comedian. Agree to it. Am accepted by Mr. Dapper, Manager of a Company, collected from the Theatres Royal, for the Summer Season pag. 71

CHAP. XIX.

*The said Company's Arrival at the City of *****. Their Success. My great Disappointment* 77

CHAP. XX.

*Make a fresh Agreement with the Company. Return to London. At the Advice of Friends engage in a Strolling Company. A Description of Hackwell the Manager. Set out with him from London, and arrive at *****. A Description of Part of the Company* 81

CHAP. XXI.

A whimsical Accident. Some Account of Mr. and Mrs. Dolour—Of the Theatre—Of a Play, and the Performers 86

CHAP. XXII.

*Description of the Performance continued—Of a Stock-Supper—Of my Lodging. The Company remove from ***** to L ———* 91

CHAP.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. XXIII.

Arrival at L——. Manner of settling Business. A Squabble with one of the Comedians. Agreeably fixed as to my Lodging, &c. Description of the Play-Room—and of an Accident that fell out the Night of our Opening pag. 97

CHAP. XXIV.

The Landlord's Behaviour on our first Night's Success. Business falls off. Play bespoke—Account of it. The Company are invited to play at a Gentleman's Seat. Description of a Supper at the New-Inn. Genteel Behaviour of Mr. B—— 102

CHAP. XXV.

Play the Miser. Some Discourse that passed between Mr. B—— and myself. Description of Mrs. B——. The whole Company handsomely entertained at the Summer-House of Mr. B——, and their Behaviour in return. Finish playing at the New-Inn 107

CHAP. XXVI.

*An Accident retards Part of the Company some Time, in their Journey from the New-Inn. That settled, they return to ***** Bad Success there. Lovegill's Behaviour* 112

CHAP. XXVII.

*Distresses at ***** encreased. A Tale. A Stranger arrives—His Business* 117

CHAP.

CONTENTS.

C H A P. XXVIII.

Quit Hackwell's Company, and remove to that of Plackstone's. Set out for London on an advantageous Prospect. Disappointed in it. Return again to the Stage. Join one Diaper's Company at M——. A Sketch of the Performers, and of Diaper in particular
pag. 121

C H A P. XXIX.

Description of Diaper continued, and other whimsical Matters relating to the Company
127

C H A P. XXX.

The Company remove to C——. Are joined by two People from London. Their Characters. A Story told by Cynick
133

C H A P. XXXI.

Mr. Cynick continues his Tales—That Gentleman leaves the Company. They determine to bring Diaper to some Account for Monies, unjustly kept from them
139

C H A P. XXXII.

Contains Quæries, sent from the Company to Diaper for his Answer. Diaper promises to settle the Accompts between himself and Company, the Day succeeding his Benefit, and appoints a Meeting with them for that Purpose
144

C H A P.

CONTENTS.

C H A P. XXXIII.

*Diaper meets the Company——Produceth a Bill of his
Stock-Debt, and treats the Comedians in a very abrupt
Manner. A Specimen of their changeable Dispositions.—
Determine to leave Diaper as soon as the Business should
be finish'd at M——. Meet unexpectedly with an old
School-Fellow——What pass'd between us* pag. 148

C H A P. XXXIV.

*Introduce Captain Richards, at his Request, to the Apart-
ment of Mrs. Ribspare——Description of it. A
genteel Offer made to me by the Captain——I accept of it.
Go to London with that Gentleman——His friendly
Behaviour. Receive my Money from my Relations—and
set sail for Africa.* 153

DU PLESSIS's M E M O I R S.

CHAP. I.

Captain Ranken arrives at Port-Royal. His brutal Behaviour to me and Thompson. I gain his Confidence, by a pretended Fondness for every Thing he proposes. He takes from me all my Money and my Necessaries, under Pretence of keeping them safe for me. Set sail for the Plantation.

SOME few Hours after, as we were diverting ourselves upon the Beach, it being a clear, sunshine Evening, and the Water perfectly calm, we perceived a Boat, row'd by six Negroes and steered by a white Man; who, when they came near enough to distinguish his Dress, appear'd to be wrapped up in a plaid Night-Gown, tyed close with a silken Sash, a black Velvet Cap, and over that a lac'd Hat. We observ'd that the Boat made directly for the Landing-Place opposite to our House: Upon the Supposition therefore, that this Personage could be no other than Capt. Ranken, we made all the Haste we could to salute him. My Conjecture was right, and he received me in a very complaisant Manner. As to Thompson, he hardly vouchsafed him a Look—So prejudiced are Mankind by exterior Shews!

As soon as we had enter'd the House, the Captain enquired if I had any particular Commands; on which I drew forth my Pocket-Book, and presented him Mr. Bowman's Letter. He examined it with much Attention and great Alteration of Features, which I very narrowly

VOL. II. B observ'd,

observ'd, during the Time of his perusing it. When he had finish'd; "I am hereby acquainted," said he, "young Man" (with an Austerity in his Countenance that, notwithstanding I had been prepared against his Behaviour, somewhat startled me) "by Mr. *Bowman*, "who, though a very good, yet at the same Time is a "very inconsiderate Person, that he has sent over to me "a young Gentleman (meaning yourself) to remain "with me for the Term of five Years, in the Capacity "of Clerk and Register; together with a very ingenious Artisan, a Silversmith, whom I suppose to be "the Fellow at the Door. What could my Friend "*Bowman's* crazy Head be about, in burthening a green "Settlement, such as ours, with such People? You, "indeed, are a good sturdy Lad, well built, and may "in Time, with Application, be made to earn your "Bread; but it must be with other Sort of Tools than "Goose-Quills, I promise you. In whatever Light "you may esteem yourself, one good Carpenter is "worth twenty Clerks in *America*. As to the Silversmith, and his Ingenuity, I would not give a Barrel "of Potatoes for a Thousand of him: However, we "must e'en make the best of a bad Bargain; I see, by "his rotten Appearance, he can't plague me long; and, "while he eats my Provision, I'll make him do some "what or other to deserve it, I warrant him."

THESE Sentences, pronounc'd with a sordid Ferocity and Contempt of a Man, whose Benevolence had been the sole Means of making him what he was, gave me a thorough Dislike for *Ranken*. I thought that common Good-Manners, or at least common Policy, might have induc'd him to treat a Stranger, and one who did not come ill recommended to him, with a little more Civility: But he was a Brute in Nature, incapable of Tenderness, Honesty, or any Qualification, but that of a low, mean Cunning; a Property rather to be contemn'd, than coveted.

As soon as I had seen his Hand, I resolv'd how to play my Cards; in order therefore for the best of the Game, I pretended to be pleas'd with every Thing that he advanc'd; wonder'd, as much as himself, that Mr. *Bowman* should be so far overseen, as to send him People,

ple, that a very little Reflection would have serv'd to convince him could not be otherwise than usefess to a new-raisd Plantation: That, for my own Part, I should think it my Duty, by every Step in my Power, to prove to him that I was ready to obey his Commands, and to act as vigorously in any Thing that he should be pleas'd to set me about, as though I had never been accustom'd to any other Sort of Life.

THIS soothing Behaviour met with all the Success it aim'd at. His Features relinquish'd that reserv'd Harshness they had before assum'd; and, taking me by the Hand, he assur'd me, That he was extreamly glad to find so great a Quantity of Prudence blended with such Youth, a Thing not very common; and added, That, if I behav'd as my Words seem'd to indicate, I should always find a Friend in him.

I TOOK the first Opportunity I had of stepping out to *Thompson*, and acquainting him with what I had discover'd of *Ranken's* Temper; how I had humour'd it, and entreated him, for his own sake, to follow the Example, if he wish'd to lead a quiet Life, which I foresaw nothing, but deceiving a Deceiver, could obtain for either of us.

WHILST I was talking with him to this Purpose, Mr. *Ranken* approached us; and, addressing himself to *Thompson*, "Well, *Silversmith*," said he, "how do you like this new World?" "Very well, Sir, replied *Thompson*, "that Part of it that I have yet seen." "O, you have seen nothing of it," said *Ranken*: "I shall take you and *Du Plessis* with me To-morrow Evening up to the Plantation, and set you both to work. Can you work lustily?" "I will make shift to do what I can, Sir," answer'd *Thompson*;—"but I was never us'd to any laborious Business."—"That is no Reason," return'd *Ranken*, "that you never should. Don't set yourself against it, and I'll warrant you'll do well enough. Come now, suppose, for a Specimen, we go all Hands to the Wood, and fell a few Trees for the Use of the Family, until we come down again." "with all my Heart, Sir," said I; and so said *Thompson*. Accordingly, taking the Negroes with us, we

proceeded to the Wood; and, in less than two Hours, had cut a sufficient Quantity to load the six Home with.

THE next Morning early we return'd to the same Task, and continu'd in the Wood all Day long, the Negroes bringing our Victuals to us. This Employment, the Night before, had no other Appearance than a Spurt of Amusement; but the becoming ty'd to it, for twelve or fourteen Hours together, with a Talk-Master over us, who took especial Care that we did not idle Time, quite chang'd the Scene, and gave poor *Thompson* a dismal Prospect of the Miseries in Store for us. I was not a little fatigu'd myself, but, for his Part, he could hardly crawl Home to the comfortless Kind of Refreshment provided for him. As the Negroes had been hard work'd all Day, Mr. *Ranken* would not set out for his Plantation before the Morning-Tide, which serv'd about Eight.

AT Supper (thinking it might procure me greater Indulgence) I was fool enough to acquaint him with what Cash I had brought over, and he was Knave enough to take it from me; telling me, at the same Time, That as I should have no Manner of Occasion for it at the Plantation, he would deposit it safely for me, and I should have it from Time to Time as I wanted Necessaries of any Sort. I told him, I hop'd that would be a great while first; since, in a large Chest that would come by the first Opportunity from *Charles-Town*, I thought I had a sufficient Stock of every Thing to last, at least, above two Years; and I did not doubt but I should have a fresh Supply by Mr. *Bowman*, when he came. The Captain said this was all so much the better, and that he did not in the least doubt, but, if I would follow his Directions, I should do extreamly well.

He desir'd to see the Things I had brought with me to *Port-Royal*, which I ingenuously laid before him. Hal a Dozen white Shirts and Neckcloths, with two Pair of white Silk Stockings, four of brown Thread, and four white Waistcoats, he gave into his Wife's Care to lay up for me; telling me withal, that two Pair of brown Thread Stockings, with two Pair of Pumps, and four check'd Shirts, would be a sufficient Stock to carry to the Plantation, as we should never see any Body there,
except

except those of our own Family; and, when we came down to *Port-Royal*, which perhaps would be once a Month, the Things I left behind would be useful to make my Appearance in. Thus, under feasible Pretences, I was stripp'd of all my Money and Cloaths; which Villainy, not being able to contend against, I was oblig'd to put up with as patiently as I could.

THE next Morning we set sail from the Town, up the River; and, there being but little Wind, and that serving us no longer than 'till we had doubled a Point of Land, distant about Half a Mile from the Port, the Negroes were then oblig'd to take to their Oars.

THAT River is a very fine one; upwards, I believe, of forty Miles in it's Extent; equal in Breadth, in many Parts of it, to the *Thames* in *Chelsea-Reach*. The Land is chiefly low, and cover'd with Wood of various Sorts; such as, Oak of five or six different Species, Cedar, Cypress, Hickory, Cabbage, Pine, &c.

THIS River is plentifully stor'd with many Kinds of excellent Fish; particularly Bass, Drum, Eels, and two or three different Sorts of Mulletts: There are also in it Water-Snakes, Efts, &c. and a prodigious Number of Alligators, for the most Part, very small and tame. They commonly lie on the surface of the Water, basking themselves in the Sun, and will hardly stir out of the Way of your Boat.

ABOUT Twelve at Noon we arriv'd at a Punch-House, kept by one *Wilson*, where we din'd upon barrel'd Pork and boil'd Rice. After Dinner, his Daughters (a Couple of fine lusty Girls, the Youngest about Sixteen, without either Shoe or Stocking on their Feet, or cap on their Heads, their whole Dress consisting in a coarse Plaid-Jacket and Petticoat) brought in, by Way of Desert, Peaches, Water-Melons, Fox-Grapes, Chinqua-Pins and Ground-Nuts.

THE two first mention'd need no Description; I shall therefore only tell you, that those Fruits are there in such extream Plenty, that they absolutely feed their Hogs with them. Fox-Grapes grow wild in the Woods: They are, in Size, considerably bigger than the *English* Garden-Grape; the Skins of them are prodigiously tough, but the Pulp very agreeable. The Chinqua-Pin

is a Nut about as big as our Hazel, but grows enclos'd in a Case as the Chesnut; which, when the Fruit becomes sufficiently ripe, divides as doth the other, and it's Burden falls to the Earth. Ground-Nuts grow about an Inch under the Surface: The Appearance they make above, before they come to Maturity, is somewhat like the *English* Potatoe, but run no higher than Strawberries. When they are ripe, the Leaves and Stalks, withering away, turn of a yellowish Hew; and then, without any Instrument more than your Hand, you drag them up, and at their Roots hang the Nuts in Clusters. The Planters set but little Store by them, on Account, I suppose, of their excessive Plenty. They are allow'd nutritious and pleasant, whether eaten raw or roasted. Sometimes they are parch'd, ground, and made into an agreeable Liquid, not unlike Chocolate; but, in my Opinion, much better. From this Plantation we set off at near Three in the Afternoon, and reach'd Home about Eight in the Evening.

C H A P. II.

Account of what happen'd on the Plantation, during Ranken's Absence. Description of our House, Furniture, &c. Ranken's Observation to me, and my Reply on it. The Nature of my Employment. Small Difference between the Negroes and myself, in regard to Labour. Cruel Treatment of Thompson.—Of the Negroes. Reflections on it. Thompson found, in his Cave, starv'd to Death.

A WHITE Overseer came, on our Landing, to welcome Home his Master, the Captain; and to acquaint him, that *Phæbe*, the only Woman Slave that there was upon the Plantation, had been deliver'd the Night before, without any other Assistance than her own, of a Female Child: That in the Morning going to her Hut, to see what was the Reason she did not come to her Work as usual, he had found her in a very weak Condition, for want of proper Necessaries, yet, notwithstanding her State, she covered herself on hearing his Approach, as well as she could with her Rug, and holding

ing out the Infant, call'd to him, " See ; see here, Masser, Masser, Pickaniny ! *Phæbe* Pickaniny ! — Me sickee much, Masser ! me sickee No Yam, Grande Masser, now — *Phæbe* drinkee, Masser pleasee' — That is to say, She had brought forth a little Child ; was very sick ; could not eat, as formerly ; but would be glad of some Drink, if he pleas'd.

He added, That he had warmed her a little Rum and Water, which comforted her much ; that afterwards he had boil'd some Rice, and made it palatable with Butter and Sugar, which she had eat very heartily ; that he had repeated the Quantity at Noon, and was going to serve her again, just as we came. The Captain order'd him to do so, and withal sent her a Cup of White Wine, by her Husband *Sampson*, who seemed to take great Pride in the News.

THIS Fellow, *Sampson*, was an old Negro, when Mr. *Ranken* purchased him ; that is to say, had been used many Years to Plantation-Business, and was perfectly reconciled to his Fate, without the least Hope or Thought of any Alteration. It was under his Eye that the other five (who were all new) had been modell'd, and brought to settle properly to their Business, which at first but few of them are willing to do ; nor is there much Wonder to be made of it, for, generally speaking, they are most inhumanly treated.

WHEN we came into our House, as they called it (a more ordinary Habitation than the meanest Country Cot I ever saw in England) Mr. *Ranken* observing that I was a little surprized at the Uncouthness of it (all the Furniture being no more than an old, ragged Elbow-Chair, two wooden Crickets, a Bed, a Broom, a crazy Table, and two or three Books) " You are not," said he, " in a Plantation, to expect the Elegance of a Palace. Do not prepossess yourself against these Appearances ; People that come here must come with a Design to work, a full Resolution to divest themselves of all Kind of Effeminacies that they may have been brought up in, and to stick seriously to an Industry and Frugality that abominates every Thing nice and superfluous."

I PUT on a good Face upon this half Check of his; and told him, That I was no otherways affected, than from the Novelty of Particulars, as any one else might; but that, I dar'd to say, in a few Days I should convince him, that this Sort of Life was far from disagreeable to me.

My Answer put him into good Humour for the rest of the Night. He entered into a Description of the Nature of managing a new Plantation; told me long Stories of the Profits accruing from such and such particular Branches of Trade with the *Indians*; how many People, from nothing, had made immense Fortunes by that Kind of Traffic; gave me an Account (as far as had come within his own Observations) of the Birds, Beasts, Plants, Climate, and Constitution of *Carolina*; and, really, in a Manner that was tolerably entertaining, could I have supposed myself or him any other Beings than those we really were. As I had a pretty good Guess at his Temper by this Time, I dar'd not open my Lips, concerning *Thompson*; having heard him tell the Overseer to shew the old lousy *Scotchman* to the Potatoo-Hole, for he was not fit Company for Christians; and his Commands were as peremptory as those of *Fex* and *Morocco*.

ABOUT Eleven o'Clock he told the Overseer, that he would go to Bed, and we might do the same. The Fellow took up a Bit of Turpentine-Wood (which, among Planters, supplies the Place of Candles) and bade me follow him into the next Room (indeed we had no more in the House) where, at each End, was a Bed, as he called them; which were Bear-Skins, laid upon a Parcel of that Moss I have already spoke of; and, by Way of Coverlids, other Bear-Skins. Under one of these I saw him lay down, without divesting himself of any Thing more than his upper Jacket, and a coloured Handkerchief, that he had tyed about his Neck. I followed his Example, and, allowing for the Oddity of my new Apartment, slept tolerably sound.

THE next Morning, about Four o'Clock, the Overseer got up, and I heard him soon after calling the Negroes, which I suppose waked *Ranken*; who, without farther Ceremony, ordered me to turn out. I told him, I was getting up; which although I had 'till then no Thoughts

Thoughts of, I found my own Ease depended on the obliging him.

I ACCORDINGLY rose, and coming through his Room bade him Good-morrow; and, with all the Complaisance I was Master of, asked him of his Health. He replied, after a surly, hoggish Manner, that he was well enough; only that either *Atkins* (the Overseer) or I had snored so damnably all Night long, that he could not get a Wink of Sleep for us. He then bade me go into the Plantation, and ask *Atkins* what there was for me to do. I did so, and was set about picking *Indian Corn* from the Stalks, and carrying it in Baskets to a large Storehouse, or Granary, for such was, at that Time, the general Work of the Plantation; that it might be housed before the Deer and Turkeys should visit it, those Destroyers frequently coming in the Night, when the Grain is ripe, to the vast Damage of the Planter.

IN regard to Labour, I found there was no Distinction made betwixt the Negroes and myself; except that they were tasked to so many Baskets a Day, and I was not. I asked the Overseer where *Thompson* lay the Night before, which he told me; and withal added, that he must go rouse him, for it was then near Seven o'Clock. On a Summons from him, the poor Creature came crawling out of a Cavity, that lay between the Trunks of two large Trees, which had been felled some Time before; on one of which he sat himself down, but looked more like a Corpse than a living Man.

I ASKED him how he did? He replied, very poorly: That Mr. *Bowman* had been the Death of him, in sending him to so cruel a Wretch, who had obliged him the last Night to lie on the bare Ground; saving a little Moss lightly scattered, but nothing to cover him; and in a Place that was so damp and horrible, that he could not sleep, for thinking himself entombed alive: That he had had nothing to eat, except a few cold boiled *Scœva Beans* (a Pulse, pretty much like our Kidney-Beans) without a Grain of Salt, or any Thing to make them palatable: That he could not swallow the Half of them, and made no Manner of Doubt but he should be starved.

I OBSERVED to him, that it was dangerous for me to be seen idle by *Ranken*; but that whatever Provisions I

could get for myself, of better Nature than what was allowed to him, I would find some Opportunity of letting him share it. I then parted from him, and well it was that I did so, for presently after Mr. *Ranken* made his Appearance; and seeing me to be very assiduously at work, seemed mightily pleased: But coming where poor *Thompson* still sat, for the Benefit of the Sun, he asked him what was the Reason he did not go to work? He answered him, that he could not: "Then," said *Ranken*, "by G—d you shan't eat. It is a Rule of St. *Paul's* laying down, and a very good one; and no lazy Fellow shall live here upon the Sweat of industrious Brows, I can assure you."

THOMPSON was thoroughly honest, but had a great deal of his unhappy Country's Pride, and very little Discretion to temper it. He therefore, instead of following my soothing Method, fell into a Strain of downright Abuse; which aggravated the other to such a Degree, as caused him to redouble his oath, with most bitter Imprecations on himself, if he had a Morfel of Victuals, without earning of it.

AFTER the Captain had done Breakfast, *Atkins* and myself were indulged with a Pot of Tea, and some hot Journey-Cakes buttered; not with fresh Butter indeed, but tolerable good *Irish*, of which we had a small Stock at the Plantation: The Want of Milk we used to supply by the Yolk of a new-laid Egg, beat up with warm Water. I took an Opportunity to convey into my Pocket, during the Time of Breakfast (*Ranken* having walked into the Plantation) a large Piece of Cake; which, as soon as I could find a convenient Time for, I carried to *Thompson*, who devoured it with the Greediness of a Man half famished.

AN Hour or two after this Supply, I heard *Ranken* ask him, if his Stomach was come down; and if he would take a Basket, and go to work, as *Du Pleffis* did? To which he replied, that he wished he could; but, knowing his Infirmities, would not pretend to it: But that, if he could be conveyed to *Charles-Town*, he would very willingly apply to his own Business, at which he was certain of finding Employment there; and would willingly give up his Wages (Board and Necessaries deducted) un-

til

til he had worked out the Time of his Indentures. To this *Ranken* seemed to hearken; but said, That he could not tell when Occasion might call him to *Port-Royal*, and he could not afford to send his Boat and People down on purpose with him.

THOMPSON was obliged to rest satisfied with this Answer; which, morose as it was, yet was better than he expected. In the mean time, however threatened or soothed, he never attempted the putting his Hand to any Kind of Work; to punish him for which Indolence, as *Ranken* always termed it, he was never permitted to come within the House, nor was I suffered to hold the least Conversation with him, since I had the Misfortune one Day to have been detected in the giving him a Part of my own Dinner. He was forbid likewise, on Pain of corporal Punishment, to speak even with the Negroes; on a Pretence, that he not only thereby caused them to lose their Time, but, by his Familiarity, lowered that Duty and reverential Awe with which they are taught to regard all white People.

THUS, without being allowed the Comfort of speaking to any one except by Stealth, or any Food that his puny Stomach could digest, this poor, forlorn, helpless Creature crawled about the Plantation, for upwards of two Months; when, missing him one Day about Noon, *Ranken* asked the Overseer, where that lazy Rascal, *Thompson* was? To which he answered, That he had not seen him that Day, nor had he been (as usual) for his Allowance, which was served him, at the same Time with the Negroes; he being allotted the same Portion of the same Provision that they had, *viz.* a Bowl of Homoney. Homoney is a Sort of Hasty-Pudding, made of *Indian* Wheet, ground and thrown, Husks and all, into a large Copper of Water; where, the Husks swimming on the Surface, are skimmed off, and that serves instead of winnowing. When it is boiled enough, the Negroes are all called together, and each of them receives about two Quarts for the four and twenty Hours, and that doth not stand the Planter in an *English* Penny. Cheap Labour at present! But perhaps these poor Wretches Accounts may be one Day or other balanced for them, by an Umpire whom their sordid Tyrants have very little Thought of.

To

To return to my Story.—*Ranken* himself went to the Opening of the Hole, where *Thompson* had used to lie; and, calling him several Times, received no Answer, upon which he hallowed for the Overseer and myself to come to him. We all went down together into the Den, as it might be properly termed; where, more to my Grief than Astonishment, we found the poor Creature lying on his Back, with his Eyes set, his Jaw fallen, and in the last Agonies of Death. I had never before seen any one in such Situation, and of Consequence the Sight appeared extremely shocking to me. It was aggravated, by the Certainty of his not having come to his End fairly: He absolutely perishing for want of that proper Care and Tenderness, due from Christians even to Savages, and much more to one another.

At the farther End of his Cave we found several Holes, which the poor Creature had dug to place the Provision in that he could not dispense with; knowing it would be fruitless to make any Complaint, and fearing to be seen to throw it away, lest the brutal Barbarity of his Tyrant might prompt him to the Execution of Cruelties he had oftentimes threatened, and which it was one Day as much as the Overseer could possibly do to persuade him from.

C H A P. III.

Procure the Love of Ranken and his Overseer. Consequences of it. Description of some particular Birds and Beasts. Natives of Carolina. Account of the different Species of Drudgery I was employed in at the Plantation.

THE inhuman Behaviour of *Ranken* towards *Thompson*, contributed to raise (if possible) my Contempt and Detestation of him; and the more, because I knew *Mr. Bowman's* great Regard for that unhappy Servant. I wished to be able to transmit the Account to *England* of what had happened, but it was impossible; I therefore continued to wear my galling Chains with all seeming Satisfaction, and readily embraced every Proposition made to me, either by *Ranken*, or his Overseer; although, in Fact, it was ever so disgustful. Thus gained I the Esteem
of

of both, and procured to myself many Indulgencies; such as Leave to shoot an Hour or two every Day (a Diversion that I was very fond of) of eating at the same Time with the Captain, and of the same Provisions; of now and then making a Visit with him to Mr. Talbot, a Gentleman whose Plantation lay about eight Miles from us, by Water; and other Liberties, that a different Behaviour had kept me a Stranger to.

ALTHOUGH I have somewhere declared against dwelling on the descriptive Part of a Country that hath been so well delineated, by those who have made it their Business, and have been furnished with Time and Opportunities sufficient for the Work; yet, for a concise Account of some few Particulars that chanced to fall within my limited Notice, I hope I may stand excused. At the Time of the Rice (which grows very much like Oats) being in the Ear, there are such numerous Flocks of Doves hovering round it, that it is as much as two or three Negroes can do (if the Plantation be any Way large) to divert them from settling upon, and devouring it. This they effect by Hallowing, or some other Noises, disagreeable to them; not caring to throw away Powder and Shot, their Quantities being so very great, that it would be of no Consequence. I have myself killed eighteen at one Fire; but those who are more expert will bring you down three or four Dozen. These Doves are very pretty, and of the same Kind that go under the Denomination of Turtle-Doves, and are sold in Covent-Garden, and most of the Bird-Shops in London, therefore need nothing farther to be said of them.

THE Blackbirds (which likewise fly there in large Flocks) are very hurtful to the Rice. These are beautiful Birds, have several red Feathers in each Wing, as likewise in the Tail; which, with red Legs and yellow Beak, make a pleasant Variety. They are, in Size, much about the same with the *English* Blackbird, or rather less.

REDBIRDS, or *Virginia* Nightingales, are about the Size of a Bunting-Lark. The Cock is of a most lively Scarlet, with a Tuft on his Head of the same Colour. They are marked above and under the Beak with a few black Feathers, as our Cock-Sparrows, of the House Kind;

Kind; and are as common in *Carolina*, as those Birds in *England*. The Hen is of a dingier Red than the Cock, and wants the Blackness of the Head and Throat. This Bird is now pretty commonly known through *Europe*, especially in Sea-port Towns.

PARTRIDGES are to be found among the Plantations, as I have heard, but I cannot say that I ever saw any. There are Abundance of other small Rice-Consumers, that I cannot now remember either the Names or Colours of: Of the larger Sort, the Wild-Turkeys do prodigious Damage, infomuch that the Planter is frequently obliged to cause Negroes to watch all Night, in order to keep them off the Ground. Sometimes these Interlopers pay with their Lives their Depredations: But that seldom happens, for they are exceeding shy, and much lighter on the Wing than their Appearance seems to promise; I having once partook of one that weighed, when ready to go on the Spit, upwards of eight and twenty Pounds.

WILD-DEER are extremely mischievous, and great Destroyers, but are rarely to be seen by the Planters; I myself have, in a Morning, found our Plantation perfectly covered with their Dung; but never saw a Deer during the Time I was in the Country, though I sat up the best Part of seven or eight Nights for that Purpose. The native *Indians* destroy great Quantities of them indeed; but then we must consider, that being bred to the Chace from Children; those People are particularly acquainted with their Haunts: Not only that, but habituating themselves early to such Hardships, Difficulties, and Penuries as *Europeans* are unaccustomed to, it is not to be wonder'd at that they so far excel us in the Article of Hunting; and the Skins of those Animals being one of the most principal Branches of their Traffick with us, that Consideration prompts their more eager Pursuit. They could not otherwise be provided with such Quantities of Rum, their favourite Liquor, of which they consume a vast deal, and the pernicious Qualities of which too frequently excites them to woful Extravagancies.

WOLVES, I have been told, were once very plenty, but now seldom seen in *Carolina*, at least in those Parts inhabited by the *English*.

BEARS

BEARS are common in the Woods. I met with two, at different Times, as I was in Quest of Game; but, taking no Notice of them, they took none of me, each Party pursuing his ſeparate Views unmoleſted. Theſe Animals are but ſmall in that Part of the World, little exceeding the Height and Size of a tolerable large Bull-Dog, and very inoffenſive, unleſs much provoked. A Judgment may be formed of their Tempers, by the Simplicity of their Food; for one having been opened by our Overſeer, his Paunch had nothing in it except Purple-Berries, that grow on a Shrub in the Woods, about the Height of our Currant-Trees, and the Fruit is in Size, Colour, and Taſte not very different from theirs, of the black Sort.

THERE are many different Species of Snakes to be found in the Woods of *Carolina*, but none fatal, I believe, except the Rattle-ones; which I perſuade myſelf are not ſo common as ſome Travellers would have us believe, or otherwiſe I was extreemly lucky that I ſaw but one, during my Stay there (and that of a very diminutive Size) which a Negro Lad having found at the Watering-Place, had killed with a ſmall Stick that he happened to have in his Hand.

Two or three Times that our Boat had been ſent by *Ranken* to *Wilson's* Plantation for Neceſſaries, I had diſpatched Letters, in order to be forwarded from thence for *England*, wherein I had ſufficiently belied my Conſcience, in the beſtowing Compliments on him which he had not Capacity ſufficient to deſerve, becauſe I was certain that he would not fail to intercept them. The Event answered my Expectations, and ſerved to eſtabliſh me in his good Graces.

I HAD now rubbed away pretty near five Months, in gathering Corn, digging Potatoes, felling Timber, burning Brushwood, grubbing Stumps, and other Plantation-Drudgery, when Providence furniſhed me with an Opportunity to eſcape, that I did not fail of embracing.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Immediate Business calls Ranken to Charles-Town: He takes me with him to Port-Royal. I endeavour at an Escape. A lucky Accident in my Favour.

ONE Day that Captain Ranken had received a Letter from Mr. Talbot, our next Neighbour (though eight Miles distant from us, as already observed) it was most evident to me that the Contents of it were far from agreeable to him, by a Confusion impossible for him to disguise. I took Liberty, from the Confidence I had by that Time gained, to enquire if any Thing had happened amiss at Port-Royal. "No Tom," said he (a Familiarity that he always made use of in his bittermost Tempers) "they are all well, I thank God, at Port-Royal; but I have a Letter here from Salter and Grimes, that calls me immediately to Charles-Town, upon Affairs relative to the Plantation. Somebody, it seems, has laid a prior Claim to the Lands purchased by that indiscreet, foolish Creature, Bowman, before the Assembly. So far I am acquainted, and what the Issue of it may be, God knows: However, I must set out for Port-Royal with the Morning's Tide, and from thence to Charles-Town with all possible Expedition." A Dawn of Liberty here gleamed upon me, and my Heart received it with Transport.

As I had several Times assisted in rowing the Captain up and down the River, on divers Occasions, and it being a busy Time with the Negroes, two of the newest, with Sampson and myself, were selected for the Stroke-men, and himself steered, leaving the rest with the Overseer to manage the Plantation.

WE reached Port-Royal the next Night about Eleven o'Clock, where his Wife (who was entirely unacquainted with the Business of the Letter she had forwarded to him) was much surprised to see him at that Time, as well as that he had not been down there so long before; for the which he gave her as a Reason, the Multiplicity of Business that he had had upon his Hands; and next informed her of the Nature of the Concern that brought him there,
and

and obliged him to set out for *Charles-Town* as soon as possible.

It was agreed that he should go immediately after Dinner the next Day. As to my Part, Mrs. *Ranken* did not know me at first Sight; and well she might not, for very soon after I went up to the Plantation, her Husband had obliged me to have my Hair cut off, which was of great length, of a very fine brown Colour, and strong natural Curl; and, in Exchange for it, had made me wear a coarse *Scotch* plaid Bonnet. He had likewise, on Pretence that the Cloaths I then wore were too good to work in, insisted on a thorough Alteration of my Dress; and thereupon taking from me my Coat, Waistcoat, and Breeches, had given me in Lieu of them a Jacket and Trowsers, of the same Stuff with my Bonnet; and such was the only Habit that I then had, to make my Appearance in.

ABOUT Two o'Clock the next Afternoon, I had the Pleasure of seeing the Captain set forward on Horseback, for the Prosecution of his Journey. He left Orders with me to take the Boat up to the Plantation with the Evening Tide, and his Wife being appointed to see those Orders executed, it was impossible for me to reduce the Project I had in my Head to practice immediately; nor did I want to do it, because I should then have been too speedily after him, which was by no Means my Business.

At proper Time, therefore, taking leave of Mrs. *Ranken*, I departed from *Port-Royal*, with a strong Tide and a pretty Breeze (according to her Belief) for a Place, which, in my own Heart, I determined never to see again, if Fortune had but the least Morfel of Kindness left for me. I took especial Care, by slack rowing, giving the Negroes Victuals and Drink, and all the Methods of Delay I could invent, to trifle away so much Time as should render it impossible for us to get beyond old *Wilson's* with that Tide. Whilst we waited there then in Expectation of the next, I took an Opportunity, as the old Man and I were in a very serious Discourse by the Fire-Side and his Family sitting round full of Attention to us, to start from my Seat, and throwing myself into a great Agony of Spirits, swore that I was undone for ever unless I could

I could find some Method of conveying a Parchment, that I had brought away from *Port-Royal* by Mistake, immediately after Mr. Ranken; since it contained the most principal Matters relating to the Business that had called him to *Charles-Town*, and the which he could not by any possible Means transact without.

WILSON said, The only Thing I could do then, would be to take two of his ablest Negroes, add them to those of our own, and row down again to *Port-Royal* directly; and there getting a Horse, pursue the Captain, without farther Loss of Time. I liked his Advice well; and, having acquainted Sampson (whom I have before mentioned as the most intelligent, tractable, and faithful of our Slaves) with the Affair, was going immediately to put it in Practice, when Mr. Talbot, the Gentleman who owned the next Plantation to ours, came driving up to the Wharf with a twelve-oar'd Barge, to whom I told the same Story that I had before told Wilson. He said, If I would stay whilst he took a little Refreshment, he would give me a Cast down with him; which would forward me much, as we were but indifferent Rowers, and the Tide would be great Part of the Way against us: "Besides," added he, "your Stock of Negroes being so small, these Lads will be wanted at the Plantation, therefore send them away; for as I purpose to remain at *Port-Royal* four or five Days, when you have dispatched your Business you may return Home with me."

THIS was the luckiest Accident that could have happened, in the Situation that I was in. I was not, with this strange Boat and People, so liable to a Detection as I should have been with our own, whom I could not have got rid of so easily perhaps as I would have done: But so charming is the most distant Prospect of Liberty, that I had not reflected on one Quarter of the Danger which that first Step might have probably plunged me in, until the Security of this second furnished me with the Opportunity.

I CALLED Sampson before Mr. Talbot, and told him of that Gentleman's kind Offer; and, giving him some Tobacco and a Pint Bottle of Rum, which I had in the Boat for my own drinking, I bade him put off for the Plantation,

Plantation, as soon as ever the Tide turned ; which he promised very readily, and I dare to swear as faithfully executed.

He parted from me with a " God blessèe ! God " blessèe, Masser ! Goodee Bachra ! Love poor Negro " much Grande ! God blessèe, Masser ! " and the Tears stood in his Eyes. Poor *Sampson* ! I cannot recollect him without Sensations that I think due to him, for he sincerely loved me. Gratitude never filled a Breast more amply, than that of that honest Creature's. Indeed he had every Virtue within his Knowledge, and a Quickness of Capacity, that, had it been happily cultivated, might have reflected much Honour on it's Owner. I confess (and without a Blush) I quitted the Society of that Black with much more Regret, than I felt for the Loss of any White left behind me, in that Part of *America*.

TWELVE lusty Fellows, pulling at a light Barge, could not but make great Way. We got down in about three Hours. It was then between Twelve and One. A dead Silence reigned, and I was pleased with it much better than with any Musick I had ever heard in my Life. To add to my Felicity, as if Providence seemed to declare that it had not quite forsaken me, the Moon shone sufficiently bright to distinguish minute Objects.

MR. *Talbot* would have struck out of his Way to our Landing-Place ; but I declined his Civility, as the Noise occasion'd by the Oars and Voices, might have caused some of *Ranken's* Family to have opened their Windows, by which Means I might have been very easily discovered : I therefore went with him to his own Wharf, which was near a Quarter of a Mile lower, but that I did not regard.

AFTER taking my Leave of him, and seeing him housed, I crossed the little Plain that lay at the Back of the Town, and, in less than fifteen Minutes, fell in with the *Charles-Town* Main-Road ; along the which, with my Gun in my Hand, I had perhaps walked a Mile and Half or so before, but never more. I now made the most of my Time, and, in about three Hours (betwixt running and walking) had measured near four-

teen

teen Miles, as I found afterwards upon Enquiry; but there a Stop was put to my Career by a River, over the which I was necessitated to pass, before I could pursue my Journey, which I had undertaken without any farther Supply than a Half-Crown Paper-Bill of that Currency (Value about Four-pence *English*) and a little brown Sugar which I accidentally had in my Pocket, on what Account I forgot.

How divinely charming is Liberty! How are all other subservient Pursuits and Acquisitions absorbed and lost, in that first, grand Principle! Blest in that Enjoyment, how infinitely superior is the State of an *English* private Gentleman, to that of a Grand Vizir of *Turky*, or an Archbishop of *France*!

THE River that I had to pass was pretty near a Mile broad. I could very well perceive a Boat on the other Side, which I supposed destined for the ferrying of Passengers: Nor was I mistaken, but however there was, at that improper time, no Person to come with it. I hallowed until I was hoarse, but could not make any one hear; at length, wearied with repeated Cries to no Purpose, I sat me down on the Ground, and, being fatigu'd with the Walk I had taken, added to the Business of the preceding Day, I fell into a sound Sleep.

CHAP. V.

Civility of the Master of a Ferryboat-House. Set out from thence on Horseback, in Company with a Gentleman's Servant for Charles-Town.

AFTER having enjoyed my Repose for a Couple of Hours at least, I was disturbed by a Person's pulling my Arm pretty smartly. He was a Drover, who wanted to cross with some Cattle; and, finding me in the Condition aforesaid, imagined I waited there for a Passage. After having hinted to me the Inconvenience of sleeping at that cold Season of the Year (it being then the latter End of the Month of *January*) he asked me, if I did not want to go over? I replied, I came thither

thither with no other Intent. "Why then," said he, "we must try to make them hear us."

THE Moon had been gone down some Time, and it was now the first Glimmer of Morning. We hal-
lowed together, as loud as we were able; and after
having repeated it two or three Times, we were an-
swered, by Means of a Speaking-Trumpet, from the
other Side, that they were coming; which they did
with all convenient Haste.

WHEN we landed, I found that the Price of the
Ferry swallowed up all my Finances. I discharged it,
however, with a good Grace, and then considered of
Means whereby to proceed. To that Purpose I asked
one of the Negroes who belong'd to the Boat, if his
Master was stirring, and what was his Name? To the
first Question, he answered, That he believed he was
not — That his Name was *Carter*. I bade him go
and acquaint him, that a Person from *Port Royal* wanted
to speak with him. He did so, and I sat me down by
a fine large Wood-Fire, it being usual to keep them in
all Night there. Wood is so very plenty, that burn as
much as they will, they feel no Lack of it.

Mr. *Carter*, in a few Minutes, came down. He
seemed to have the Marks of that Species of Good-Na-
ture, most generally distinguished under the Epithet of
Folly, pretty strongly imprinted on his Visage; which I
had no sooner observed, than I was thereby encouraged
to make a Demand of what there was to eat in the
House. He told me, some cold pickled Pork, and
Potatoes and Rice. I ordered him to fetch it out, and
make me a Ten Shilling Bowl of Punch.

AFTER I had eat heartily, and regal'd myself with
two or three Draughts of the generous Liquid, I asked
my Host, If he knew one Captain *Ranken*, of *Port-
Royal*? "Know him!" said he, "aye, very well. I
"taught his Children to read and write, when I kept
"School there, for I have not lived in this House above
"these eight Months. He was here Yesterday, about
"Half an Hour after Four in the Afternoon, or there
"away, on his Road to *Charles Town*. I would fain
"have had him stayed and taken a Bed with me, but
"he refused; nay, he said the Business he was on re-
"quired

“ quired such pressing Haste, that he would not even
 “ alight, only drank Five Shillingworth of warm Punch,
 “ and got on. I warrant he’s almost half Way thither
 “ by this Time, for he said, That as the Moon served,
 “ and he was well acquainted with the Road, he should
 “ not bait until this Morning Breakfast-Time; and
 “ where he then stopped, he proposed, if possible, to
 “ provide himself with a fresh Horse, which if he could
 “ not do he should only stay so long, he said, as the
 “ other might receive a proper Refreshment.”

OVERJOYED, in Fact, to hear that *Ranken* probably was got so far o’Head of me, I nevertheless pretended all the Trouble imaginable at having mis’d him; repeating the same Story to *Carter*, that I had before told to *Talbot* and *Wilson*: And most particularly lamenting my Case, in that having ascertained to myself the Surety of finding him at this Ferry, where, I had not made the least Doubt but he would have rested all Night (because he had indeed hinted as much to Mrs. *Ranken*) I had, in my Hurry, came away without one Farthing more in my Pocket, than a Half-crown Bill, which I had already paid to the Ferry-Man; and that there was an indispensable Necessity that I should follow the Captain, who would run the Risk of sustaining a very capital Damage, unless he speedily received the Parchment in my Custody, and which I would not trust out of my own Hands on any Consideration whatever.

“ As to Money,” said *Carter*, “ don’t make yourself
 “ uneasy: I’ll furnish you with sufficient for your
 “ Journey; but as to the Expedition that you are
 “ oblig’d to make, I can’t tell what to say about that.
 “ You seem a little fatigu’d; e’en lie down, and re-
 “ fresh yourself for an Hour, or so: In the mean time,
 “ I’ll dispatch one of my Negroes, to see if we can
 “ hire a Horse for you, at some of the neighbouring
 “ Plantations.” I thanked him for this Courtesy, not forgetting to urge him to all the Haste he was Master of; and whilst he was so employ’d, I, full of Satisfaction, laid me down on the Bed he had just rose from.

UNDER such an Agitation of Spirits as I then was, it cannot be imagined that I could enjoy the Comforts arising from a very quiet Sleep; I had, however, fell
 into

into a Kind of Dose, when *Carter*, jogging me gently by the Elbow, occasioned me to start up in the utmost Degree of Surprize; apprehending nothing less than that I had been discover'd, and my Disturber sent, by *Mrs. Ranken*, to fetch me back again. But this chimerical Pain soon vanished, on perceiving it to be only the honest Landlord, who was come, overjoy'd, to tell me a Piece of great good News, *viz.* That a Gentleman's Servant, with a led Horse, had just come over the Ferry, on his Way to fetch his Master from *Charles-Town*, and that he had bargain'd with him for a Guinea to let me ride thither, but that I must go immediately. I was not a little pleased at this Intelligence, and therefore jumping up, put on my Shoes in a Trice, which was all the dressing I had at that Time occasion for. Being introduced to my Guide, we became as well acquainted, in the drinking of Five Shillingworth of Punch, as if we had known one another from *Adam*. I then borrowed a Ten-pound Bill of my Landlord; to which having added my Reckoning, with the Guinea for Horse-hire, I gave him a Draught on Captain *Ranken* for the Money; which I had an undoubted Right to do, as he had, at that Time, so much Property of mine in his Hands.

THIS necessary Business dispatch'd, we set forward, mounted on a Couple of the best Nags I had seen since I had been in the Province. By the Bye, bad were the best too; but, had they been ten Times worse, as they were the Instruments of my escaping from a miserable Bondage, I should have look'd with a blind Eye on all their Imperfections.

C H A P. VI.

Account of our Entertainment on the Road. Nearly escape Detection at a Gentleman's Plantation, whom my Guide had Business to call on. Arrive at Charles-Town. Send for Pattison, one of my Fellow-Passengers.

WE trotted on, at a pretty round Rate (the Roads being much better at that Time of the Year, as the Soil is sandy, than they are in the Height of Summer)

mer) for about ten Miles, and then our Progression was stopt by a pretty broad Lake, we were oblig'd to ferry. There we breakfasted, on the usual Food found at such Houses, viz. barrel'd Pork, broil'd; which Method of Dressing did not in the least soften the Harshness of it, but some Slices of boil'd Rice did cool, in some Measure, the Heat it occasioned. At this Place we were happy enough to procure some Milk; with which, and the additional Helps of Rum, Water, and Sugar, we made a very pleasant *English* Beverage.

DURING this Repast my Guide ask'd me several Questions, which I resolv'd as I judg'd most subservient to my own Interest; for his Head happened to be one of that Sort, which required no great Skill to penetrate, or Difficulty to impose on. He was ready for every Dose, before I prepared it. I found he was a *Norfolk* Lad, who had been inveigled by a *Creolian* in *London*, with whom he had lived as a Footman, to indent himself to him for a Term of Years; and who, after he had got him safe o' that Side the Water, had us'd him very scurvily, as is too generally the Case.

I found him to be thoroughly dissatisfied with his Situation, and that a Word or two of Encouragement would have serv'd to make him dispose of his Cattle, and shew his Indentures a fair Pair of Heels; or, at least, venture a Push for it, for the real effecting of such Project is not so easy as may be imagin'd. In the first Place, no Captain of a Vessel (on very severe Penalties) dare to take any Person on Board, without making the strictest Enquiry into their Affairs; and every one (not under Age) either Man or Woman, who design to quit the Province, are, by the Laws of it, oblig'd to affix their Names, Places of Abode, and Occupations, against the Pillars of the Publick-Exchange, and other the most frequented Places, belonging to whatever Port they intend to embark from: And such Advertisements are required to be stuck up a full Calendar Month, before the Party leaves the Province, to the End that they may receive and pay their respective Debts, and satisfy all Demands concerning them. The same Methods, or something like them, are observ'd through most, if not all, of the *American* Colonies; which renders it

next

next to an Impossibility for an indentured Servant to make an Elopement, be his Condition ever so irksome or unjustifiable.

BUT to return to my Story — When we had satisfied ourselves and our Host, we passed the Ferry; and, about One o'Clock, turned from the Main-Road, to call at a Gentleman's Plantation, with whom my Companion had Business; and there we dined with the white Servants of the said Gentleman, who were all *Scotch*, as he himself was. His Name was *M^r Pberfon*, one of those unfortunate Gentlemen concerned in the Troubles of the Year 1715, who, with many others on the same Account, had transported themselves voluntary Exiles to that Part of the World.

WHILST we were eating, this Gentleman very frequently passed and repassed through the Room where we were; and I observed several Times, that his Eyes were intently fixed on me, which occasioned me no small Confusion, though I was certain that I was an entire Stranger to him. I was extremely glad, however, to get once more on Horseback; and, as soon as we had proceeded some Distance from his House, I found, by discoursing with my Guide on that Point, that my Fears had been far from groundless, since he had been questioned who I was, in what Situation of Life, and how I came to accompany him, so oddly equipt for such a Journey. To all which Particulars honest *Peter* gave such Responses, as I had taken Care to furnish him withal; and which, I thank Heaven, proved satisfactory enough to prevent *M^r Pberfon* from what he at first proposed, *viz.* the stopping me for a run-away Servant, as he had told *Peter* he suspected me to be: A Courtesy that Planters picque themselves much on shewing to each other, and which greatly contributes to the Difficulty Servants meet with, in slipping their Collars.

THIS Rub over, we past on with great Chearfulness, riding by many noble Plantations to the Right and Left, until we arrived at another Ferry, distant from Mr. *M^r Pberfon's* about four Miles; the which being narrow we crossed directly, and continued our Journey for Eighteen farther, without drawing Bit, and then

we came to a broader Ferry than we had hitherto crossed, and there we lay, being then at the Distance of fifty-three Miles from *Port-Royal*; extreme good travelling for me, that had never been much used to riding.

WE had here for Supper a Couple of tolerable Wild-Ducks, on which, as they were Novelties, I fed most eagerly. The worst of the Affair was, that we could have no Bread, only boil'd Rice and Potatoes, in lieu of it; however, we made very good shift.

I FORGOT to mention that my Guide had, in the Course of the Day's Travel, left the Main-Road three or four Times, where it looked rather better than in other Places we had passed, and took a Sweep through narrow Paths into the Depth of the Woods, which grow excessively thick on each Side of the Highway; and that Course he would continue for near a Mile together sometimes, and then all on a sudden strike again into the broader Way. On my Enquiry into the Reason of those extraordinary Windings; he told me, That the Places he had shunned, and which to my Eye had appeared so fair and level, were most dangerous Swamps or Bogs, over the which had we attempted to ride, we should, in all Probability, both Horses and Men, have inevitably perished; that, at the best of Times, they were so rotten, they would not bear a Sheep to cross them; and that Numbers of Animals were continually smother'd in them.

I HAD herein a fresh Instance of the great Goodness of Providence, that had not permitted my undertaking the Journey alone; wherein I had been exposed to this (before unknown, unheard of, and therefore to me) unavoidable Danger.

I FOUND myself pretty much tired, and so, as soon as we had finished a second Ten Shilling Bowl, I proposed the going to Rest, for which *Peter* seemed full as desirous as myself. Our Lodging was but ordinary, being obliged to lie together on much such a Bed as that I had been accusom'd to at the Plantation; nevertheless my Sleep was as tranquil as it might have been on the best Down in *Europe*, for I never waked until honest *Peter* (who had been up two Hours before, and had dressed

dressed and fed his Horses) came, and hallow'd in my Ear, that it was Six o'Clock, and high Time to set forward, if we intended to lie at *Charles-Town*.

THAT Sound, next to *London*, inspired my Heart, and I whipped out of Bed with the Agility of a Posture-Master. My Dress was soon put on, and neither having any Stomach to eat so early, we took each of us a Dram of Rum, discharged our Bill, crossed the Ferry, and jogg'd on.

As we drew nearer and nearer to the Capital of the Province, the Roads grew wider, the Plantations neater and more numerous, and the Houses more beautiful and magnificent. We stopt not until we dined, which was likewise at a Ferry, the last we had then to pass, and about thirty miles from that where we had lain the Night before. The Person who kept it was an old Acquaintance of *Peter's*, and treated us with much Kindness.

AFTER we had sufficiently refreshed ourselves and our Horses, we set off again; and, stopping only once by the Way, arrived safe in *Charles-Town* about Nine o'Clock. I told *Peter* where he might find me the next Morning, and insisted upon his breakfasting with me; which he promised that he would, if his Master could spare him. I would fain have shared the little Stock I had remaining with him, in Token of my Regard for his Civility, but could not prevail on him to accept a Farthing.

AFTER we parted, I enquired of the first Person I met for the House of my old Landlord *Schemerborn*, because we had now entered at a Part of the Town to which I was an entire Stranger. When I came thither, the first of the Family I set my Eye on was Mrs. *Schemerborn*, whom I very well knew; but the Uncouthness of my Habit prevented her from recollecting me. I called for a Crown Bowl of Punch, and sat me down on a Bench at the farther and most obscure Part of the Room, that I might the better divert myself with carrying on the Deceit a while. I asked her concerning her Husband's Health? To which she replied, That he was very well when he left *Charles-Town*, but at that Time was gone Master of a Sloop to *Rhode-Island*. "Pray," added she,

" young Man (approaching me) did you know him?" I said, That I had formerly had some little Acquaintance with him; and then proceeded to enquire what was become of one *Pattison*, a Joyner and Cabinet-Maker, that came over in the same Ship with me, and whom I had heard was settled in the Town. She told me, That he worked with one Mr. *Warner*; and that, if I chose it, she would send a Negro for him. I said I should be obliged if she would; and, begging the Favour of Pen, Ink, and Paper, wrote a Line or two, lest, ignorant who it was that wanted him, he might refuse coming on a verbal Message.

C H A P. VII.

Mrs. Schemerhorn's (my Landlady's) Surprise, on my discovering myself to her. Had heard of my Distresses, and by what Means. Pattison likewise ignorant of me at first Sight. He goes with me to Fortescue Rogers, Esq; Make my Complaint to him against Ranken. That Gentleman gives me a Letter to deliver to him.

MRS. Schemerhorn having herself brought a Candle with the Standish to me, whilst I wrote, had examined my Features narrowly; which, together with some Remembrance of my Voice, determined her in her Opinion. As soon as I had dispatched the Negro, " I think," said she, smiling, " I should know something of a Voice much like yours, young Man. Your Face too resembles greatly that of a Person who lodged in our House, between five and six Months ago. He came hither from *England*, and went from hence with *Johnston*, the *Indian* Trader, who was to set him on Shore at *Port-Royal*, in order for his Settlement there: I say, I think there is in yourself a prodigious Likeness of that Person; and yet, from many Circumstances that I have been informed of, it is next to an Impossibility that you should be him; because, according to our Accounts, beside the having been most cruelly treated in all other Points, he is likewise confined and watched so closely on the Plantation, by a barbarous Villain to whom he has
" been

“ been configned from a Merchant in *England*, that it
 “ would be in vain for him to think of escaping, by any
 “ Means in the World.”

“ IN me, Madam,” replied I, “ not to keep you
 “ longer in Suspence, you behold the identical Person
 “ whom your Fancy suggested : And it is as true that I
 “ have undergone, in the little Time that I have been
 “ absent from *Charles-Town*, more Severities than you
 “ can possibly have heard a full Description of; and,
 “ indeed, I am at a Loss to guess, by what Channel
 “ you have been made acquainted with any Part of my
 “ Story.”

“ IT was from Mr. *Baban's* (the Lawyer's) Family,
 “ whose Sister was a Fellow-Passenger with you,” said
 Mrs. *Schemerhorn*, “ that I had my Intelligence : And
 “ they theirs, from one Mr. *Talbot*, who spoke very
 “ genteely of you, and much pitied your Condition. I
 “ saw one of that Gentleman's Letters, which was
 “ crammed with the Relation of your Sufferings. But
 “ come,” added she, “ let us retire from this public
 “ Room, to one more convenient to meet your Friend
 “ in ; who, I dare to say, will at first Sight be under
 “ the same Uncertainty that I was.”

I FOLLOWED my Landlady into a small Parlour, and
 had not been long seated before *Pattison* entered ; and,
 saluting Mrs. *Schemerhorn*, asked her, If Mr. *Du Plessis*
 was not in the House ? without taking the least Notice
 of me, though I looked him hard in the Face all the
 Time he was speaking. Seeing him on the Point of
 retiring, upon her telling him that I was gone to pay my
 Respects to Messrs. *Salter* and *Grimes*, I rose from my
 Chair, and, taking him by the Hand, asked him if it
 was possible I could be so very much altered, as that he
 should have lost all Sort of Remembrance of me ? Ac-
 quainted immediately with my Voice, he caught me in
 his Arms, and embraced me in the most affectionate
 Manner.

AFTER I had satisfied all ordinary Questions, he in-
 sisted that I should go to his Apartment and make it my
 Home, whilst I stay'd. I thanked him, but as my Stay,
 I said, would not, I hoped, be very long in *Charles-*
C 3
Town,

Town, I should continue for that Time with Mrs. *Schemerborn*.

WHILST Supper was getting ready I sent for a Barber, and was shaved ; after which, I exchanged my dirty, checked Shirt, for a clean white ruffled one ; and my Bonnet, Jacket, Trowzers, and Leather Stockings, for a Silver-laced Hat, an Ash-coloured Broad-Cloth Frock with Plate-Buttons, a green Sattin Waistcoat, black Velvet Breeches, white Silk Stockings, and a Pair of new turned Pumps.

I WAS much complimented by Mrs. *Schemerborn* and my Friend *Pattison*, on the Alteration of my Dress. At their Requests, I informed them of such Particulars as I could recollect, that had passed during my Captivity ; of the Means I had made Use of to escape from it, and the Steps I intended to pursue, in order to divest myself entirely from all Apprehensions of being obliged to return to it.

WE made a hearty Supper on a very fine Turkey, and as much Punch as we cared for ; and then Mr. *Pattison*, imagining, he said, that I must be fatigued, took his Leave, after having promised to Breakfast, and go thro' the Business of the succeeding Day with me ; which I had already planned, and which required no considerable Share of Resolution to practise.

ABOUT Seven o'Clock the next Morning (after a good Night's Rest) I arose, and, having dressed myself, expected the coming of my Friend with as great a Degree of Ease and Chearfulness, as I ever experienced. When he came, which was near Nine, he was surprized to find me ready so soon ; and much more so, when I told him that it was upwards of two Hours that I had already been waiting for him.

WE delayed Breakfast a full Half-Hour, in Expectation of my Guide, *Peter* ; who, from some Accident or other, never came near us. We then went to the House of *Fortescue Rogers*, Esq; I at first asked for my School-Fellow, who introduced me immediately to his Brother ; before whom I made my just Complaint of all that I had sustained under *Ranken's* most arbitrary and severe Management ; and, after I had ran through a copious Detail of the Injuries I had myself met with, I reported

reported the unfortunate Case, and miserable Catastrophe of the unhappy *Thompson*, already related.

MR. *Rogers* told me, That he had before been lightly informed of my Case, and had once or twice thought of writing to me concerning it; but, through the Hurry and Multiplicity of his other Affairs, it from Time to Time had slipt his Memory. He added, That though he did not make the least Scruple of the Veracity of any one Article that I had advanced, from the general Character of *Ranken* (whom although he had never seen, he had often heard of) yet, in Point of Form, he thought it absolutely necessary to swear me to the Facts I had made mention of, that he might be the better enabled to defend me in Case of Opposition; which I readily agreeing to, he desired me to repeat my Story as circumstantially as possible, whilst his Clerk took it down: To the which having sworn, Mr. *Rogers* told me, That he fancied, upon my producing a Letter to *Ranken*, that he would immediately write for me, I should meet no farther Trouble.

HE retired to acquit himself of his Promise, and left me with my Friend *Pattison* and his Brother; who was overjoy'd to see me relieved from the Clutches of such an infernal Villain as I had rid myself of, yet sorry that I was determin'd to go for *England* with the first Ship, which I had told him was my Resolution. After about a Quarter of an Hour's Chat, Mr. *Rogers* returned with a Letter directed for Captain *Ranken*; which, having first read, he delivered unsealed to me for him, and of which the underwritten is an exact Copy.

Captain *Ranken*,

BY Information, on Oath, made before me this Morning by Mr. Thomas Du Plessis (the Bearer) I find your general, and most vile Character, incontestibly confirmed. I hereby signify to you, that your Usage of that young Gentleman (whose Guardians I am well acquainted with) granting he had even been in the Capacity of an indentured Servant to you, has been, as well as inhumanly savage, unwarrantable by the established Laws of this Province; and, by the Breach of those Laws, he had been freed from any farther Servitude: But as the Case stands, he has an Action

against you (on his own Account) such as would greatly embarrass, if not utterly ruin you to defend. The Affair of Alexander Thompson, as it hath been represented to me, appears sufficiently Capital to touch your Life — Let my Lenity, with the Christian Disposition of the injured Du Plessis (who, forgetting his Motives, asserts not his Right of Prosecution) be continual Warnings to you how to treat People for the future, that may be unfortunate enough to happen under your Power: And be assured you will not so easily a second Time escape Justice, if (neglecting this more friendly Advice than you deserve) you suffer any fresh Complaint to revive the Matter I have against you.

January 26,

F. ROGERS.

C H A P. VIII.

Hear bad News, concerning Mr. Bowman. Pattison goes with me to Ranken. Deliver him the Letter from Mr. Rogers. Consequence of it. Mr. Rogers engages for my Passage to London. Leave a Power of Attorney with Mr. Bahan, for the Recovery of my Right from Ranken, and return to my Lodging.

AFTER making my proper Acknowledgements to Mr. Rogers for his effectual Passport to Liberty, I took my Leave of that Gentleman for the present, promising to let him know the next Morning the Reception his Favour met with; and then, with a Heart brimful of Satisfaction, I ran Home, and communicated the glad Tidings of Success to my good Landlady, who testified much Joy at the Recital. I next, with my Friend Pattison (whom I took no Step without; and who, I had good Reason to believe, had a most tender Regard for me) went to the Storehouse of Messrs. Salter and Grimes, where we expected to find Ranken.

He was not there, they told us, but directed us to a Punch-House, where we might be sure to meet with him at Two o'Clock at Dinner. To those Gentlemen, on their Enquiry what Affair it was that brought me to Charles-Town, I opened my whole Account, not neglecting to mention Mr. Rogers's Letter; but begged they would not speak of it to Ranken, if they happened to see him

him first, neither that I was in Town; which they promised me that they would not. They told me, That Mr. *Bowman*'s Affairs were in a very desperate Condition, for that a potent Planter had laid Claim to, and produced Title Deeds of a Grant for all that Tract of Land, purchased by the aforesaid Gentleman, of prior Date, by many Years, to those in the Possession of Mr. *Bowman*; and that this Planter was newly come from *Philadelphia* (where he had likewise a fine Settlement) to *Charles-Town*, on purpose to eject *Ranken*; and which said they, there is no doubt of his accomplishing soon; as he hath not only Justice, but Money too to fight withal, and there is very little of either on the other Side. I was very much chagrined at this News, on Mr. *Bowman*'s Account, whose Memory I shall ever retain a just Esteem for.

WHEN we parted from the Stores, we returned Home directly, lest we should meet *Ranken* in Publick, and that I did not by any Means chuse. As there is little Business transacted at *Charles-Town* in an Afternoon, we imagined that about Three o'Clock we should be sure to find him over a Glass, and so it happened. On our Enquiry at the House we were directed to, whether Captain *Ranken* was there? the Landlord answered, "Yes," and was conducting us thro' a long Entry into an inner Parlour; the Door of which being open, we could perceive *Ranken* sitting with eight or nine others, round a Bowl of Punch.

I MUST confess, I trembled at the Sight of the Brute, although I carried a certain infallible Spell against his future Tyranny. He rose from Table, before I had Time to enter the Room, on being told that a Gentleman enquired for him; and, advancing towards us, paid me the Compliment of a Bow, without discerning whom he was so ceremonious to, as the Place was pretty dark.

THE Landlord, imagining that the Nature of our Business might require Privacy, opened the Door of a little Room adjoining the Entry, and desired us to walk in there; which having done, how great was *Ranken*'s Amazement at seeing me, whom he had all the Reason in the World to believe a hundred and thirty odd Miles distant from him, and habited in a Manner so widely

different from the Metamorphosis he had obliged me to put myself under?

AFTER he had recovered from his first Surprise, he asked, in a Voice and Manner sufficiently intimidating, What Business, in the Name of God, had brought me to *Charles-Town*? To which I replied, with a Tone more confirmed than he expected, That I had come thither, on a full Resolution to rid myself of Barbarities I had no longer Patience to combat withal; that I had been brought up in a Manner too tender to admit of such Fatigues as he had imposed on me, nor would my Spirit permit me to stoop tamely under the Burden; that the Matter I had now accomplished had been my Determination to attempt from the first Moment that I had set my Foot on the Plantation; and that if my Behaviour, in the present Affair, was disagreeable to him, he must impute it to his own Brutality, that had been the Occasion.

RANKEN's Pride was abominably gall'd by such Freedom of Speech, and especially from so contemptible a Wretch as he supposed me; and, not contented with Looks that apparently testified his Scorn, he added a Stroke, that, had it not been diverted by *Pattison's* catching his Arm, must have felled me to the Ground. As it happened I just felt it, and that was as much as I could say. I thank'd him for the intended Favour, in a very cool, complaisant Manner; but my Friend threw himself into a downright Passion, and abused him heartily. "Sir," said Ranken, "I have nothing to do with you, therefore go about your Business; as to this Fellow, he is my Servant, and To-morrow Morning, it is likely, I shall return him to the Plantation in Irons." "I hope, Sir," said I, "you will not carry your Resentment so far as that, since I have committed no Crime, nor done any Thing more than Nature prompts even the Brute Creation to the Performance of, made a Struggle for Liberty. I flatter myself, Sir," continued I, that the Contents of this Epistle" (presenting him with it) "will a little contribute towards the softening that rigorous Spirit you seem to be possessed of against me."

UPON

UPON opening the Letter, he instantly threw down his Eye on the Subscription, and immediately his Complexion (before fiery Red) changed to a deadly Pale. I blessed the Omen, as the Presage of happy Event. When he had sufficiently perused it, he turned upon his Heel, gave me an oblique, sarcastical Sneer, swore I was a damned Villain, wished *Bowman's* Neck had been broke before he had sent him such a good-for-nothing Rascal, and flung out of the Room without another Word. I looked upon this as a compleat Victory, and went immediately to acquaint Mr. *Rogers* with the Particulars; who was of the same Opinion, and that *Ranken* would trouble his Head no more concerning me, which indeed he never did.

THE next Thing to be considered now was my Return to *London*, in Regard to which I consulted Mr. *Rogers*. "Why," said that Gentleman, "as you tell me you have little or no Money, I will pass my Word for your Passage to Captain *Hopkins*, an intimate Acquaintance of mine, who is almost ready to sail; and who on my Account will, I am very sure, treat you respectfully." I received this fresh Instance of Kindness from Mr. *Rogers* with great Pleasure, since, but for that, I might yet have found much Difficulty in quitting the Province; because no Masters of Ships will admit any Person on board, until they are first satisfied for their Passage. I made it my Business that Night to see Captain *Hopkins*, who assured me, that he purposed to sail in four Days. I told him what Mr. *Rogers* had said, in regard to me. He seem'd entirely satisfied, and said he would remember to talk with that Gentleman concerning the Affair, the first Time he saw him; and withal desired that I would give him a Direction where to find me, in Case of Emergency.

THE next Morning I, by Invitation, breakfasted with Mr. *Baban*, with whom I left my Letter of Attorney, and Instructions to recover the Money and Necessaries from *Ranken*, which he had most unjustly detained from me. I then waited on Messrs. *Salter* and *Grimes*, to let them know that I was on my Return for *England*, and they promised to get Dispatches ready for Mr. *Bowman*, by the next Evening. I told them how the Affair had ended,

ed, between *Ranken* and myself. They said they had seen him since, but he had not thought proper to mention a single Syllable concerning it to them, nor they to him.

C H A P. IX.

Bid adieu to all Friends. Character of Pattison. Set sail for England. Arrive safe. Go immediately, on my landing, to Mrs. Miller's. Her unkind Reception of me.

WHEN I came Home to Dinner, I found my Friend *Pattison* waiting for me, and likewise a Letter from Captain *Hopkins*; purporting, That he had agreed concerning my Affair with Mr. *Rogers*, and requesting me to send my Things on board about Six o'Clock that Evening, for that he should fall down to *Rebellion-Road* with the Morning's Tide, and sail the Day following, if the Wind served. In Observance to his Direction, I spent Part of the Afternoon in packing up; and the rest, in taking Leave of Messrs. *Salter* and *Grimes*, Mr. *Baban* and his Sister, and receiving their Commissions; after which, I returned Home to Supper with *Pattison*.

THE next Morning I waited on *Fortescue Rogers*, Esq; to take my Leave of him and his Brother, and thank them for the signal Services they had rendered me, and which will ever remain indelibly fixed on my Memory.

THAT Day being the last that I hoped to spend in *America* (at least for that Trip, as the Sailors phrase it) I dined with *Pattison*, at his own Lodgings. This Man had not indeed the Advantage of Education, the only Deficiency he laboured under. His natural Parts were strong and lively. He had a Quickness of Conception, a pretty Turn of ready Humour, a Modesty of Behaviour rare in Men of his Age and Breeding, and Judgment enough never to speak on Topics above his Reach. To this let me add, that he was honest as Truth itself, industrious, an Oeconomist, courteous to all, yet bold, on proper Occasions, as any Man ought to be. It must be confessed, this Friend of mine supplied no higher Rank

Rank in Life, than that of a Journeyman-Carpenter ; and I wish I could truly say, that I had never seen his Superiors in that Point, vastly below him in every other.

I STAYED with *Pattison* 'till near Four o'Clock, at which Time we had promised Mrs. *Schemberhorn* to drink Tea with her. About Six one of the Boat's Crew came to let me know, the Captain desired that I would be in Readiness against he called to take me on board with him, which would be in an Hour and Half's Time. Mr. *Pattison* insisted on my receiving a Gallon of Rum and a Gallon of Lime-Juice from him, by Way of Remembrance ; which, with two Dozen of Mountain sent me by young Mr. *Rogers*, and the same Quantity of Port by Mr. *Baban*, made a very pretty Sea-Store. I had no Occasion to trouble myself in regard to Eatables, because I was to diet with the Captain.

BETWEEN Seven and Eight the Captain came ; when Mrs. *Schemberhorn* and my worthy Friend *Pattison* would (in order to see the last of me) accompany me down to *Ragg's-Wharf*, where the Boat lay ; and there, with watry Eyes on every Side, we went through the most hateful of all Ceremonies (the bidding Adieu!) after which we parted, in all probability, never to meet again.

As we had no Occurrence of remarkable Singularity, during the Passage Home, I shall only say, that, after a Run of six Weeks, we arrived safe at our Moorings, in the rich and lovely River of *Thames*: The first Sight of which conveyed to my Heart Raptures inexpressible ; a Glow, beyond the Power of Description. Notwithstanding it was near dark, being about Five o'Clock, in the Middle of *March*, I longed to set my Foot once more on my native *Terra Firma* (as the Captain called it) and accordingly went ashore with the first Wherry that came along Side.

THE Moment I got upon *Tower-Hill*, I stooped and kissed the Earth ; a Salutation due to a Parent, from which I had been seven Months withheld ; and, through numberless Fatigues and Perils, had at length, by the friendly Hand of Providence, been conducted once more to the Embraces of. I perfectly flew through the City, to that Part of the Town where my Cousin *Miller* dwelt ; whom I did not doubt would, on hearing the Account of

of my hard Treatment, be rejoiced to find me returned so well and speedily.—But how grossly was I mistaken!

AN old Maid-Servant, who had always expressed great Tenderness for me, happened to be the Person who opened the Door to me. “My God! Mr. *Du Plessis*!” said she, “is it you? (clapping her Hands together) “For Heaven’s sake, how long have you been in “Town!” “Only this very Night,” replied I, “Mrs. “*Mary*. How does my Cousin *Miller*, Mr. *Miller*, and “all the Family?” “All well,” said she, “I hope. “My Master is at present in *Yorkshire*.—The Ladies “are drinking Tea above—There is Company with “them—But I will go call my Mistress out, and let her “know that you are come Home.”

LEAVING me in a Back-Parlour, away she ran up Stairs to acquaint her old Lady with the News; who presently came hobbling down, not with cordial Looks to receive me, but with infernal ones to reject me, such as wanted only the Power to condemn me to everlasting Perdition. I quickly perceived what Kind of Comfort I was likely to receive from that Quarter; but however, plucking up my Spirits, as well as I could, I advanced, in order to salute her; But she declined it, saying, “None of those Familiarities, if you please, Mr.”—I asked her Pardon; said, I hoped that herself and Family had enjoyed their Healths, since I had had the Pleasure to see them.

I WAS proceeding to inform her of the Reasons for my leaving *Carolina* so suddenly; but she cut me short, by telling me, That I might vent my Lies where there was a greater Probability of their being believed, than I could expect in her Family; that, to be plain, she had much rather have heard that I had been drowned on the Passage, than have had the Dissatisfaction of seeing me again in her House; that it was her Son’s Resolution, as well as Mr. *Egerton*’s, never to speak to me more, and therefore I might go about my Business, for I should not sleep under her Roof, she could assure me.

THE poor Maid (who had stood by all this Time) entreated her, that she would not put me out of Doors for that Night, at least. The Expression of putting me out of Doors roused my Resentment; and I could not help

help repeating, with a good deal of Warmth, "No, no, Mistress Mary, I am obliged to your Compassion, but I shall not stay to give my Cousin the Trouble of putting me out of Doors. As for you, Madam," said I, addressing Mrs. Miller, "in a Day when you yourself shall become a Supplicant for Pardon, may you find much more Indulgence than you have shewn me." In uttering these last Words I opened the Street-Door, and went out, without staying for any Reply.

C H A P. X.

My destitute Circumstances. Resolve to go to Mr. Bowman's. Call first in the Neighbourhood, at his Peruke-Maker's. Hear there of that Gentleman's melancholly Catastrophe, and the deplorable State of his Family. Reflections on their Cases, and that of my own. Character of Morfe, the Barber. Description of his Housekeeping. The Kindness of his Apprentice. A Description of Morfe's Ingratitude. Take a Lodging. The People of the House—their Behaviour to me.

NATURE could not help betraying her Weakness in a Tear or two.—I was both thirsty and hungry, for I had eat nothing all Day) except an Ounce or two of Meat at Dinner, for Joy that I was near Home—I thought I had a Home then!--I now found myself mistaken, and that I was returned to worse Savages than any I had left behind me—I had no Money, except some few Paper-Bills of the Currency of Carolina, which were of little Use. All the Relief that occurred to me, against lying in the Streets, was either to return on board the Vessel, or otherwise to go to Mr. Bowman's, which I had design'd to do the next Morning, supposing that I had been received at Mrs. Miller's as well as I could have wished. The latter I resolv'd on then, and, brushing up my Courage as well as possible, I mended my Pace,

DURING the little Time that I have before-mentioned to have passed at Mr. Bowman's, I had made some slight Acquaintance with his Peruke-Maker; I thought therefore to call at that Man's House first, and hear from him
how

how Matters stood in the Family: I did so, when, to compleat my Unhappiness, he assured me, that Mr. *Bowman* had been torn all to Pieces, about three Months before, to the Amazement of all who knew him: That it was generally conjectured he was gone over to his Plantation, for he had disappeared suddenly, and not even his Wife could tell what was become of him: That the eldest of his three Daughters was married to a Person that had taught her to play on the Harpsichord, who had been emboldened, by the unexpected ill Fortune of the Family, to disclose a Passion, there would have been otherwise small Hopes of his succeeding in. The old Lady, he said, was reduced to the Necessity of living dependent on this Son-in-Law, after having brought Mr. *Bowman* a Portion of Seven Thousand Pounds—See the Caprices of Fortune!—The youngest Girl was gone Teacher to the very Boarding-School, wherein she had formerly been a Pupil; and the middlemost, as an upper Servant in a Person of Quality's Family.—Poor young Creatures! their Fate was indeed lamentable; but not less to be admired at, than that virtuous Industry that exalted them above the Inclemency of it, and added a Lustre to their Characters, out of the Power of Misfortune to fully.

I WAS excessively grieved to hear so tragical an Account of Mr. *Bowman*; and the more so, from a certain Knowledge that his Affairs in *America* were in a very little better Posture, than those in *Europe*: And whatever Lenity a Man of beneficent Disposition, in Proportion to the Good he has done to others, may expect to find, *by the Rule of Right*; when he himself shall stand in need of Help, *by the Rule of Custom*, which is much more prevalent, he will generally find himself deceived.—In going to *Carolina* for Shelter, I could not esteem Mr. *Bowman* in any other Light, than that of a Sheep flinging herself into the Lion's Den as an Asylum against the pursuing Tyger.

REFLECTIONS on the Calamities of others were, at length, obliged to give way to the Consideration of those I myself sustained; which, Heaven knows, were sufficiently horrible—I was abandoned by the only People, from whom I had a Right to expect Protection; desti-

tute

tute of Victuals, Lodging, Money to procure them, or Friend to adviſe with. By having been unfortunately bred a Gentleman, I now found myſelf infinitely beneath a Journeyman-Shoemaker; becauſe ſuch a one can earn a Meal, and, in his Induſtry, ſtill carries about him an invaluable Friend, ever to be depended on: Whiſt the Learning and Wit, of even a *C-field* or a *L-ton*, are but poor Defence againſt the Outcries of a hungry Stomach.

I LET Mr. *Morſe* (for that was the Barber's Name) into the whole State of my Caſe, which, he ſaid, he pitied prodigiouſly; but, at the ſame Time, gave me but ſlender Proof of it, for he neither aſked me to eat or drink, until (hardened by Neceſſity) I peremptorily told him, that it being too late to think of going to *Rother-bitb* that Night, I muſt beg Part of a Bed with him, and a Morſel of ſomewhat to eat. He replied, That I knew he was a Batchelor, and therefore muſt not expect to find Dainties in the Cupbord, but to what there might be I was heartily welcome; and bade his Apprentice ſet it out, and lay a Cloth.

IN Conſequence of the ſaid Order, a three-legg'd Stool was dragged into the Middle of the Shop, and a Shaving-Cloth thrown over it, on which a Hawk's-Eye could not have diſcerned a clean Spot the Breadth of a Silver Penny. The Lad then placed a yellow earthen Diſh upon this Apology for a Table, that contained the Fragments of a Couple of Days Proviſion, *viz.* about three Ounces of thin Flank of Beef, a Bit of *Norfolk* Dumpling hard as a Brickbat, a large Nob of a *Sandwich* Carrot, a Handful of undreſſed Sprats, and the But-end of a Black Pudding.

I NEVER was over nice, and yet I cannot ſay how far (at any other Time but that) the Proſpect of ſuch a Regale might have ſerved towards the Reduction, rather than the Excitement of Appetite; but real Hunger, a Sauce that renders the moſt diſagreeable Diſhes palatable, ſerved to aſſiſt me in the quick Demolition of the Entertainment deſcribed; the Remembrance of it I endeavoured to waſh down with a Draught of four Sixes, the Smell of which had deterred me from drinking, 'till I was almoſt choak'd. I waited, in Hope beſide of having
heard

heard some Mention of a Tankard of Porter, but there was no such Luck in Store for me.

PRESENTLY after I had supped, the Barber told me, That being obliged to attend a Box-Club, he must beg my Pardon for leaving me ; but that if I could put up with Part of his Apprentice's Bed, I was welcome to lie there for THAT NIGHT. I observed, that he took particular Care to sound his Emphasis strong upon the two last Words, lest I should happen to mistake the Sense of the Sentence.

THE Boy, as soon as *Morse's* Back was turn'd, told me, That he had remarked what I had said to his Master before Supper ; and had hardly been able to weave for the Tears, that from Time to Time the Strokes of my Misfortunes, with those of Mr. *Bowman's* Family, had brought into his Eyes, of whom, poor Gentleman, he said, he had had many a Shilling, when he used to carry his Wigs Home : " And it is very hard," continued he weeping, " to think that that good Gentleman may, at this very Moment, stand in Need of what he so kindly heretofore bestowed on me."

This honest Lad's Tendernefs of Heart moved me to sympathize with him, and I could not help giving Way to all the Emotions of complicated Grief. The mute Scene over, he proceeded, and said, That his Master's cold Behaviour to me had shocked him very much ; tho' he could not wonder at it, after having heard him speak scandalously of Mr. *Bowman* and his Affairs, who had been the best Friend he had ever met with. " It was that Gentleman," continued he, " that purchased the Freedom of the City for him, and recommended him to every good Customer he has ; and now, that a many of such charitable Actions hath reduced that worthy Man to ruin, the worst Word in Master's Mouth is too good for him : Nay, he hath been so wicked to declare, that had he known Mr. *Bowman's* Mind, when he shaved him the Day before he went off, he would himself have stopped him, on Account of a new Wig and a Quarter's Dressing : And since the Affair happened (as if the poor Woman, his Wife, had not already a Load of Grief, more than enough for her to bear) he has been perpetually teasing her,

" to

“ to know the Place of his Concealment, that he might
“ write to him concerning the Debt. For my Part,”
added he, “ I bless God, I am almost out of my Time;
“ and, after that Day happens, no Consideration in the
“ World shall prevail with me ever to work a Minute
“ longer with so ungrateful a Monster.”

“ You are,” said I, “ young Man, some little Matter
“ older than myself, it is true; notwithstanding which I
“ have been furnished, perhaps, with more Opportuni-
“ ties of knowing Men and Things than you have: And
“ you will find, upon a larger Acquaintance with the
“ World, that People of your Master's Disposition are
“ the only thriving ones; and that their Number ex-
“ ceeds, to an infinite Degree, Men possessed of Virtue,
“ Modesty, Candour, and mutual Love, such as Mr.
“ *Bowman*. The latter Sort are but a Prey, on which
“ the former fatten; to whom they first become Dupes,
“ then Beggars, and lastly their Ridicule, as the simple
“ Victims of their superior Talents.”

“ You are quite in the Right,” replied *Jonathan*, in
“ your Supposition that I know but little of the World;
“ I do not indeed pretend to know more, than to get my
“ Bread by my Trade, and to do as I would be done
“ by; and, if it answers your Description, it is hardly
“ worth my better Acquaintance.”

HERE, taking down his Hat, he begged my Pardon
for one Moment, and left me by the Side of a Grate,
little enough in itself, and yet too large for the Heart of
his Master; who had crammed a large Brickbat into each
Side of it, in order to contract the Width, so that it then
held (when well filled) not above a Quart of Coals; and
having locked up his Closet (the Top of which served
him for Pantry, the Middle for Cellar, and the lower
Part for Coal-Vault and Kitchen-Utensils) we had no
Means left for repairing the Fire, which was sunk to
about three Cinders, and those in so sickly a Condition,
that you could scarce tell whether they were alive or dead.

It being an excessive cold Night, I was not displeased
when, after about Half a Quarter of an Hour's waiting, I
perceived the young Man enter with a Quart of hot Li-
quor, very well known among the Gentlemen and Ladies
of the lower Class, by the Title of *Huckle-my-Buff*; the

Virtues

Virtues of which Composition I found extremely beneficial, and therefore it would be ungenerous in me to pass it slightly. Huckle-my-Buff is a thorough Heater, a a Helper of Digestion, a Promoter of Perspiration, a great Diuretick, and (which is not the least of it's good Qualities) extremely reasonable, the Price of a full Quart being no more than a Tester; whereas a Compound-Medicine against the same Complaints, fetched from your Apothecary, though not equal either in Operation or Quantity, shall stand you perhaps in the best Part of a Pound.

AFTER we had drank once or twice, "I have done, Sir," said honest *Jonathan*, "a Thing for you, since I have been out, that I hope you will approve of—I meant it well, I am sure—An Acquaintance of mine, one *Hudson*, a Smith, being drinking where I bespoke the Hot, and knowing that he used to let Rooms, I asked him, if so be he had e're a one empty now? He told me, he had; and, as I heard you say you was destitute of a Lodging, I took the Liberty to tell him as how I had a Friend that wanted one. It is up two Pair of Stairs, indeed; but the Folks are very honest and civil, and may hap it may suit you, 'till somewhat better falls out."

C H A P. XI.

Go on board the Ship, in order to fetch my Chest. Reception from the Captain, &c.

I TOLD *Jonathan* that I was vastly obliged to him, and so indeed I thought myself, and that I hoped it would be one Day or other in my Power to make him Amends; and if ever it should, I would by no Means let slip the Opportunity.

WHEN we had finished our Hot, he conducted me to his Neighbour the Smith's; where (as I had a tolerable clean ruffled Shirt on, and dressed in every other Point genteelly enough) the poor People paid me Abundance of Respect, greatly apologizing for the Meanness of the Room and Furniture. I satisfied them, however, that I was no difficult Person; that possibly I might stay with them two or three Days only; possibly a Month, or two,
or

or three, just as an Affair turned out that I had then in Agitation with some Friends at the other End of the Town, on which my Time was dependent. They said, As to that, to be sure it was as I thought proper: They should be glad to have me as long as might be convenient, since they were sure their Friend *Jonathan* would recommend no Person to them that they should have any Reason to disagree with.

I BARGAINED to give them Two Shillings *per Week* for their Room, and thought myself exceeding lucky in the having met with my new Acquaintance, whose assiduous Care had procured me what I so much stood in Need of: And, after a short Stay, *Jonathan* wished me a good Night's Rest, and left me to my Repose.

It was near Twelve when I got to Bed, and I closed not my Eyes before I had heard the neighbouring Clocks strike Three. I believe any Person, in the State I at that Time was, would have found as little Propensity to sleep as I did.

I WAS waked in the Morning by the good Woman of the House; who, rapping at the Door, asked me, if I would be pleased to drink Tea with the Family, or have any Thing particularly provided for my own Breakfast? I made answer, That I would come down immediately, and was surprised to hear that it was turned of Nine o'Clock. I found honest *Jonathan* below, who had given so many Hints concerning me and my Affairs, that I thought myself under a Necessity of telling the greater Part of my History to my Landlady, to stop the Progress of an inquisitive Disposition which I found the good Woman had her Share of, in common with the rest of the Daughters of *Eve*. My Tale drew Abundance of Pity from her and her Husband, and hearty good Wishes for Success in my future Undertakings, which was all those poor People had to afford; their utmost Industry being scarce able to support themselves, and a Family of eight Children, only two of whom were capable of the least Service to them.

AFTER Breakfast I went to *Rotherbith*, where the Ship lay, with a Design to fetch my Chest. At my going on board, the Captain saluted me very kindly; but, on my opening to him an Account of the Reception I had met with

with from my Cousin *Miller*, I saw an evident Change of Countenance, which I could not help letting him understand that I took Notice of; by telling him, That altho' I myself had met with a Treatment as unkind as unexpected, yet I did not doubt, but on his Application to Mr. *Egerton* at his Apartment at St. *James's*, that he would be immediately satisfied for my Passage. To which he replied, in a very cool Manner, That he supposed he should; if not, he knew which Way to get it; and then fell to giving Orders amongst his Men, who were unlading the Vessel. About Half an Hour afterwards (whispering something to the Mate) without taking the least Notice of me, he stepped into a Boat that lay along Side, and put to Shore.

As the Mate was very busy, I did not speak to him, until I found a proper Opportunity of following him into the State-Cabbin. He was a good tempered Man, and had, in the Course of the Passage, done me many friendly Offices; and it was with great Compunction (on my mentioning the Affair I came about) he now told me, that the Captain's positive Orders to him, on his leaving the Ship, were, That if I endeavoured to take my Chest from on board, he must not suffer me; neither should I be permitted to move it, until I had defrayed my Passage. In strict Justice, I said, that I could not blame the Captain's Caution; only begg'd that I might be indulged so far as to have the Liberty of shifting myself. To this he readily consented; on Proviso, that I left the Linen behind me, that I pulled off. Other Eyes, beside his own, he said, were upon us, or he should not be so strict with me; meaning, I suppose, the Cabbin-Boy. Hard as this Usage appeared to me, I was obliged to put up with it; the Mate standing by me until I had changed every Thing, and locked my Chest.

I THEN took my Leave of him, desiring that he would give my Service to the Captain, and tell him, that I requested he would either go or send, the next Day, to my Cousin *Egerton* for his Money, that I might no longer be kept in Suspence. This he promised me to do, and, squeezing me by the Hand, begged that I would not think hardly of him for so punctually executing the Captain's Orders: "So far from it," replied I (with an Affectation

fectionation of Gaiety it cost me some Pains to put on) "that
" I should have thought much the worse of you, if you
" had not;" and so getting into the Wherry, that had
waited all this Time for me, I bade them put me on
Shore at *Tower-Stairs*: Which having done, on de-
manding what was their Fare, they told me Two Shil-
lings, This was bad News to me, since I had but One,
and that I had borrowed from the Mate, on Purpose to
pay 'em withal, for I imagined that would have been suf-
ficient; not considering (in the Hurry of other Thoughts)
how long they had staid for me. However taking Cou-
rage, I told them that I had unluckily come out with no
more Money than a single Shilling in my Pocket, and had
not discovered the Omission until that very Moment,
otherwise might have been supplied on board the Ship;
but that if one of them would step with me to my Lodg-
ings in *Eastcheap*, I would pay them the Remainder,
and give them Six-pence to drink.

THIS Proposal, after some Demur, was agreed to—
When I came Home, on Application to my Landlord,
he swore he had not Eighteen-pence in the House, if the
Sum would save him from being hanged, but he would
try and borrow it. He was gone pretty near a Quarter
of an Hour, and it was as much as ever I could do to
keep the Fellow quiet the Time. At length comes my
Landlord, sweating and blowing; "Icod," said he, "I
" have done it at last, but I was never put to it so much
" in my Life before. as"—"Aye, aye, said I (tipping
" him the Wink) "those *Portugal* Pieces are very hard
" to change sometimes; and Things are generally most
" difficult to be met with, when we have most Occasion
" for them. Give Eighteen-penniworth of Silver to
" that honest Lad, and we'll settle the rest afterwards."
He did so, and glad we were to get rid of each other.

I COMMUNICATED to *Hudson* and his Wife all that
had passed between myself and Captain *Hopkins*, which I
told them was the Reason they saw me returned without
the Chest, I had before acquainted them that I was going
purposely to bring Home; "But never you fear, Land-
" lord," said I, "let Things go how they will, you
" shall never be any Loser by me, I promise you." He
replied, That he had not any Thought that he should;
and

and his Wife declared, That I had the Looks of a very honest young Man, and she should not fear at all, if it was in her Power, to trust me as far as Forty Pounds would go—That when Things were at the worst, they must needs mend—Folks were not all born Yesterday—And Abundance of such comfortable Remnants, that her Memory had picked up; which, however simply expressed, or unaptly applied, were well meant at least, and I was therefore obliged to her.

THE next Day I wrote to a Gentlewoman, who had been a great Intimate of my Mother's; and, it being Sunday, easily prevailed upon honest *Jonathan* to carry it for me to her House in *Hanover-Square*. He returned from her, fraught with Invectives against the ill Conduct that had been the Source of my Distresses, a strict Charge to think of no farther Application, and a Crown-piece to reward my forgetting her. The Sight of the Coin dispelled the Gloom with which the former Part of his Story had clouded my Ideas, and Pleasure's Sun peep'd into my Heart. I immediately paid Mr. *Hudson* the Eighteenpence he had advanced for me to the Waterman, and, with another Shilling, I treated all the good Family with Beer, on the Consideration that they had invited me both to dine and sup with them.

C H A P. XII.

Meet an old Acquaintance. Odd Adventure at an Alehouse.

ON the Monday Morning I went again on board the Ship. The Captain informed me, That he had waited on my Cousin *Egerton*, who seemed so entirely dissatisfied with my past Conduct, and so prepossessed against all that could be urged in my Favour, that, he dared believe, it would be impossible for me ever to re-instate myself in his good Opinion. "What you have done," said he, to occasion such an unalterable Prejudice as he seems to have entertained against you, you best know yourself; but he raves at the bare Mention of you, like a Madman. He moreover swears he will not pay me a Farthing; you cannot therefore expect your Things from on board my Ship, until I am thoroughly "contented."

“contented.” I returned, “That I did not, by any Means; but, if he would be kind enough to have a little Patience, I did not doubt but Mr. *Egerton* would be sufficiently cool in two or three Days Time, and that upon due Reflection he would do every Thing becoming a Gentleman, and answerable to the Character that *Fortescue Rogers*, Esq; had given of him: But granting Things should come to the worst, I would take sufficient Care that he should not fail without his Money.” He said, he should be very glad of it, for he took no Manner of Pleasure in the detaining my Property; a Thing he must be obliged to do, in Right to himself and Owners, if I did not prove just to my Promise, and that a Fortnight would be the absolute Extent of the Time that could be allowed me to fulfil it in.

I PARTED from the Ship with a heavy Heart, well knowing that (whatever I had said by Way of Amusement to the Captain) I had no Method whereby to raise the Money, independent of my Relations; whom I kept teasing, to that Purpose, with Penny-Post Letters, for eight Days successively. The miserable Manner wherein I past those Days, between Hopes and Fears, was sufficiently vexatious; but, in Addition to my Distress, several of them were spent, from the Time that I rose in the Morning until I went to Bed, without Bit or Drop, except a Draught of Spring-Water from the Pump in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, at the Dusk of the Evening, after a solitary Walk round *Hyde-Park*, and Home again.

IT was on one of those said melancholy Days that, as I was passing through *Fleet-Street*, viewing, with dejected Eye and empty Bowels, the rich Goods contained in the spacious Repositories of this splendid Metropolis; contemplating my own ill-fated Stars, and the happier State of Thousands whom I saw passing and repassing (perhaps not more deserving, though more fortunate than myself) I was roused from my Lethargy, by a close Squeeze from the Hand of an old School-Fellow, that I was very glad to meet with, on more Accounts than one. I had not seen him since my Return from *Carolina*; and, being eager for the Tale of my Adventures, he proposed stepping in to the next Publick-House that offered, which I very readily consented to. It happened to be one, in which

there was no Porter sold. We were told, that we might either have *Dorchester* Beer, or a Tankard of their Home-brewed, which they sold for Six-pence. We ordered the latter, and a Couple of Pennyworth of Bread and Cheese. I soon devoured the best Part of it. We then called for another Tankard, and the same Quantity of Bread and Cheese, which we likewise soon dispatched.

UPON ordering the third Tankard my Friend, in a Whisper, asked what Money I had in my Pocket? To which, I replied, "Not a Farthing." "No," said he, "sure you joke?" "I have not, I assure you," said I. "By G—d," said he, "no more have I. I wish we had thought of speaking to each other upon that Head, before we came in." "Why that's true," rejoined I, "it would have been better that we had done so; but, since Things are as they are, how must we manage?" "I have a Thought," said he, "started, that will do. You sit still—I will be back presently." With these Words he whipt out of the Room, without mentioning a Syllable concerning the Nature of the Scheme he was about to practise.

I WAS left behind in a strange House, empty of Money, but replete with Victuals and Drink indeed; which enabled me to contend in a better Manner against melancholy Thoughts, than I should have been able to have done, before my Spirits received such Reinforcement.

I DID not know how to account for my Friend's Conduct—At length, when I had spent upwards of two Hours in sipping out of an almost empty Tankard, and reading every Advertisement in the Papers several Times over, I began to give him entirely for gone, and to imagine that he had saved his own Bacon at the Expence of mine. I now most sincerely wished that I had not met with him, who had thus persuaded me to a Regale, that, however pleasant in the Beginning, was like to prove horribly disgustful at the winding up.

A CONSCIOUS Shame, that the Effect of Evil, or little Actions generally impresses on the Features of those not unhappily hardened by long accustomed Courses of premeditated Guilt, distinguished through my Behaviour. Every Time the Landlord chanced to throw his Eye on me,

me, my Cheeks experienced the convicting Glow. I feared that my Confusion had not escaped his Notice, and his insolent Behaviour soon determined me in the Reality of what my Doubts suggested.—He accosted me with an impudent Air, common to low-bred People, who, having waded through all Sorts of Filth to the Possession of a little Money, without even the Shadow of Desert or Qualification, are desirous to set up for Persons of Consequence, the Summit of which is as difficult for them ever to attain, as it would be for an Oyster or Cinder-Wench to assume the Elegance of a *Paris*, or a *Country*; or the miserable Dawber of an Alehouse Pannel, the masterly Touches of a *Lambert*, or an *Oram*—“Your Tankard’s out, young Man,” said he; “do you want any more Beer?” I replied, That I did not: “Why then,” said he, “I wish you would pay for what you have had already, and go about your Business.” I answered, in as mild and moderate a Manner as I was capable of, That I waited for my Friend, whom I expected every Minute, and begged he would permit me to stay a little longer.

THIS Civility of mine produced the same Effect on him, that it usually doth on mean Minds, viz. a double Portion of Arrogance. “I insist,” repeated he (with an Exaltation of Voice) “that you quit your Score, and leave the House this Minute. Don’t you see that it is now upon the Stroke of Ten, which is my constant Hour of shutting up, and therefore pray give me no farther Trouble?”

FINDING him to grow more and more peremptory, and not knowing what Lengths his Ignorance might carry him, I thought it would even be the best Way to discover the Affair at once; I therefore stepped up to him, and softly whispered, That I asked ten thousand Pardons for my having intruded on his Time, but that I was sure my Friend must be back presently: That he was gone to fetch some Money, we both having had the Misfortune to leave our Lodgings unprovided; and, as we met accidentally at his Door, had not thought of enquiring into the Depth of each other’s Pocket, before we had called for the best Part of what we had had.

C H A P. XIII.

The Adventure at the Alehouse continued and ended. Some Account of an Accident that beset my Friend Bloomer. Kindness of my Landlady.

“O H! ho!” said the Ale-Draper, bawling as loud as he possibly could, “I thought what sneaking Dogs ye were, as soon as I saw ye come in. No Money, ha!—It were a good Deed to send you to the Round-House. It is such Shabroons as you are, that make honest Tradesmen find it so hard to live. I am glad my Tankard’s safe, however: It was but last Week, that I lost a Pint-Mug and a Spoon, by some such vagabond Shooler.”

WHILE he was venting this, and a great deal more of the like Trash, I stood like an arrant Fool, without offering a single Word in my own Defence: At length, a well-dressed, elderly Gentleman (whose Heart Providence had melted in my Favour) advancing from the other End of the Room, told the Bashaw of the blue Flag, That he did not behave at all well, in using such Expressions to a young Man, who made a decent, good Appearance; and that he was very certain, by the Look of me, that I was no such Person as he seemed to take me for—“No, indeed, Sir,” replied I, “I am not. I am an entire Stranger in this Neighbourhood; but, I do assure you, it has been owing only to a meer Accident, that this Mistake hath happened. It is as far as *East-cheap* that I lodge; but if, Sir,” continued I, addressing myself to the Landlord. “you have an Inclination to satisfy yourself of the Truth of what I have declared, be pleased to send any Person you can confide in with me, and I will pay them for their Trouble, exclusive of the Reckoning.” “No,” replied he, furlily, “I don’t want to know any Thing about you, or your Lodgings either—You may be the Devil, for what I care—Pay me my Money, or leave me the Worth on’t, and go about your Business.” I dare to say, Sir,” said I, “your Humanity would not suffer you to divest me of my Coat or Waistcoat, this severe Night;”

“and

“and I have nothing else valuable about me, upon my Word.” Why, yes, your Hat, said he, “seems to be tolerable good, let’s see that.” “With all my Heart, Sir,” cried I, reaching it to him; which, snatching from me with a magisterial Frown, he hung up upon one of the Nobs of the Clock—“Now,” said he, “you may sit here ’till Half an Hour after Ten, but you shall stay no longer, I’ll give you my Word.”

EVERY Turn of the Door I looked for my Friend; whom still I could not think so extremely ill of, as to conclude he would thus abandon me, being acquainted with my Necessity. A Gentleman, who was drove in by Stress of Weather, declared that the Snow came down at that Instant in a more violent Manner, than he had ever known it. I then shall have a comfortable Walk on’t, thought I to myself, of a Mile and a Half without a Hat.

THE fatal Minute of my prescribed Time being elapsed, the Landlord, not contented with barely telling me his Pleasure, took me by the Arm, and was going to turn me out of Doors by main Force; when the old Gentleman, already mentioned to have taken my Part, interposed. “I was willing,” said he to the Host, “to see how far your Inhumanity would carry you, but really did not imagine it could have extended to such a Length as it has. Pray of what Amount may the mighty Reckoning be, that has occasioned all this Racket?” Being answer’d that it was Two-and-twenty Pence; “Young Man,” said he, flinging me down Half a Crown, “discharge your Score, and there will be a Trifle left, if you should be thirsty before you get Home, to preserve you against a fresh Insult, be it possible you could meet with such another Landlord.”

WITH Tears in my Eyes, I thanked this worthy Stranger for this kind Compassion, and promised to repay him on the Morrow. “Young Man,” replied he, “I am thoroughly satisfied with the Honesty of your Intentions, and Heaven blefs you, if I never see you again; for To-morrow this Time, I hope to be the best Part of an hundred Miles distant from London. The Pleasure I have, in restoring you to your Content, is Payment sufficient. I wish you a good Night,

“and let the Treatment you have met with from this Publican be ever recent in your Memory, and that Reflection will be the Means of saving you many an extravagant Shilling.”

Soon after I had parted from the good old Gentleman, and within six or seven Doors of the Alehouse, I met my Friend; who ran against me, in his Haste, with a Degree of Strength sufficient to have knocked a weaker Person down. When each of us had recovered his Surprise; “S’blood! *Du Plessis!*” said he, “is it you?—My Heart has been with you these three Hours; but an Affair detained me that you cannot but excuse, when you hear it, although I am ready to grant that Appearances have been strongly against me—In short, I had not been gone from you a Quarter of an Hour, before I was arrested for a very small Sum, and at the Suit of one from whom I had the least Reason in the World to expect such Treatment, because I have formerly been a very great Friend to him, when he was not in any Capacity to help himself.

“ALTHOUGH the Debt and Costs amounted to no more than the trifling Sum of Five Pounds Eighteen Shillings, yet I was confined to the common Room of a Spunging-House (for want of the necessary Picklock to all Courtesy) till within this Hour, amongst a Crew of Bailiffs and their Followers, Runners, common Whores, and other Miscreants of such Cast, as would puzzle the Devil himself to match; where the extravagant Oaths and Blasphemies of those wicked Wretches, their Abuse of Prisoners, the perpetual Din of locking and unlocking Doors, the dismal Prospect of Windows grated close enough to prevent even a Cat from escaping, together with the additional Weight of my own melancholy Reflections, that never had been put to such a Trial before, would, I thought, have drove me distracted. But come,” continued he, “in the Heat of my Discourse, I had forgot the Inclemency of the Weather: For Heaven’s sake, let us go back to the House you came from (by what Means I am yet to learn) and there you shall have the Sequel of my Affair, and give me an Account of yours.”

“WERE it not,” said I, “so late as it is, I should not think

“think of returning whence I came, for sufficient Reasons that I have to relate to you: In the mean time, what think you of going Home with me, where we shall be able to discourse with Freedom?” This Proposition was agreed to, and we made the best of our Way.

I TOLD the good Woman, whom I found sitting up for me, the Dilemma we had been under that Afternoon; at which she lifted up her Hands and Eyes, and said, It was a terrible Thing that a clever youthful, young Man, as I was, should be so *testicated* about, by a Pack of cruel *marcanire* Toads; but the Devil would have the clapper-clawing their A-es in H-ll for it, one Day or other, she did not doubt — For her Part, she would sooner hang a Dog she had any Value for, than trust it to such Keepers.

MANY more Invectives, of the same Stamp, were thrown out against my Cousins Egerton and Miller, by Mother Hudson. I looked on them, as they really were, the Exuberances of a friendly Heart, and thanked her for the homely Zeal that she lavished, with such abundant Warmth, in my Favour.

C H A P. XIV.

Receive a Letter from Mr. Egerton. Contents of it. A farther Account given by Bloomer, of the Accident that happened to him, &c.

I TOLD my Landlady, that I had brought the Gentleman, whom she saw, to take Part of my Bed (with her Leave) he being an old School-Fellow, whom I had accidentally met, and who had been the innocent Cause of the Misfortune at the Publick-house, of which I had before told her. She replied, the Gentleman was very welcome; and he, to keep Pace with her Civilities, put a Shilling into her Hand, and begged that, if it was not inconvenient, she would be so good as to procure a Quart of Brandy-Hot, with an Egg in it. My Landlady smirked at the Sound, dropped a Courtsey, and said it should be got in a Crack; but made an humble Motion, that the Composition might be strengthened with Gin, for two very good Reasons, she said: First, because as how every Body agreed, that Gin was much the wholesomer Liquor;

and Secondly, because the same Money would produce double the Quantity of one, that it did of the other.

HER Argument was so well founded, that we did not offer one Word in Contradiction; but, desiring her to call up her Husband, we entered into a Scene of Jollity, that, for the Time it lasted, seemed as though we had formed a Quadruple-Alliance against the Force of all future Care and Vexation.

My Landlord, having it seems received a small Bill that Day, swore that our Shilling should not go bare a--d, and accordingly sent for two more, after the others were out. This happened to be his favourite Liquor, and he had taken such potent Draughts of it, that he rouled off his Chair twice before the third Quart was emptied; and, by the End of the fourth, was so incapable of helping himself, that we were obliged to undress and put him to Bed. Whilst we were performing these good Offices for him, he diverted himself and us, with singing, as well as he could,

“ O Juniper! who wou'd be wise,
“ If Maduess be loving of thee?”

ENTERING my Room, I saw a Letter lying on the Table directed to me, under the Hand of Mr. Egerton; the Contents of which follow, as near as I can recollect.

Thomas Du Pleffis,

THE small Regard that your Indiscretion, before you went Abroad, had left in the Breasts of your Friends for you, your late precipitate Manner of quitting your Employ in Carolina hath entirely rooted out—Neither Mr. Miller or myself desire to see you more, and therefore all Application on such Head is unnecessary. We have thought proper to advance you Six Pounds for the Payment of the Captain, whom you are to tell to be with me To-morrow, before One o'Clock. After you have received your Things, we would advise you to enter on board a Man of War, in order to prevent worse Contingencies.

H. EGERTON.

THE

THE Harſhneſs with which the above Letter was dictated, in Spite of all I could do to prevent it, got entirely Maſter of the Warmth with which my Spirits were at that Time agitated. The inſinuating Stroke at the Conclusion gave me the moſt ſenſible Shock; becauſe, however I might have been miſrepreſented, I never, in the moſt blameable Scenes incidental to Folly, could be charged with any Thing worſe than what all Boys of Spirit will be guilty of, to get at the Accompliſhment of their wanton Purſuits.

BLOOMER (for that was my Friend's Name) to divert me againſt farther Reflection, reſumed the Account of his Redemption from the Spunging-Houſe; which, ſaid he, thus fell out — “ After I had ſent (in vain) “ to every Mortal I could by any Means recollect, “ many of whom were under ſuch Obligations to me, “ that I could not have ſuppoſed Gratitude would “ have permitted them to deny my Requeſt, a Girl, “ whom I had been long acquainted with, and whom “ I had ſent for to keep me Company, put me in Remembrance of a young Fellow who had often profeſſed great Friendſhip for me; but from whom I had no Title to expect a Favour of this Nature, ſince he was under no Tie to me of any Kind whatever: “ Yet, to prevent farther teasing from her, and becauſe “ it is natural for People, under ſuch Exigencies, to lay hold on any Twig that they imagine will yield them the leaſt Relief, I permitted her to go with a Note from me to him, wherein I ſet forth my calamitous Situation, in as moving and concise a Manner as poſſible; and, to my great Joy as well as Wonder, the Plan ſucceeded, ſhe returning, in leſs than an Hour, with the whole Amount of my Releaſement; and heartily rejoiced I was to get rid of the infernal Rabble. “ I had been long obliged, againſt my Inclination, to keep Company with.

“ I MADE uſe of my Liberty to purſue the Purpoſe, I left you with a Reſolution to execute; and I ſoon effected it, by pawning my New Hat for Half a Guinea, and the purchaſing a Second-hand one for Half a Crown. I then poſted to your Relief with all the Diſpatch I was Maſter of, and am ſorry I did not

"arrive Time enough to prevent you from Insult. To-morrow, however, if you choose it, we will go and return that brutal Landlord his ill Treatment with Interest." "No, no" replied I, "the best Method of Resentment, that can be put in Practice against such People, is to despise and forget them."

C H A P. XV.

Bloomer relates the Posture of his Affairs. Fetch my Chest from on board.

THE next Morning, after I had perplexed my Brain from Six to Eight with a thousand springing, and as oft rejected Notions of a present System for Support, I awaked my Companion, who lay snoring by my Side with as much seeming Tranquillity, as if he had been possessed of Five Hundred a Year; though I very soon afterwards found that his Circumstances, of the two, were worse than my own.

WHEN we had dressed ourselves, we went down Stairs, where we found the good Man at the Forge; but as for Mistress, her last Night's Debauch had not as yet been got the better of. I read the Contents of the Letter I found on the Table to my Landlord, who seemed very well pleased with some Part of it, but could not help exclaiming against the rest. Finding that his Wife was not inclinable to stir, and he wanting his Breakfast as much as we did ours, the eldest Girl was dispatched for the Requisites, and we made it ourselves. We then went on board the Vessel, where I shewed Captain Hopkins my Letter; who, in Pursuance of the Orders it contained, came directly off with us, and, taking a Coach, hurried away to St. James's: Having told me first, that at any Time in the Afternoon, after Three o'Clock, I might fetch my Chest, for he should return directly on receiving the Money, and should leave such Orders with the Mate; that although he himself might not perhaps be on board when I came, yet should find no Impediment in the Prosecution of my Business.

Ar

At our coming on Shore, *Bloomer* proposed dining at some neighbouring House, that we might be the more ready for the Service of the Afternoon: For my Part, the Treatment I had met with from the surly Publican the Day before being still uppermost in my Thoughts, I would much rather have returned to my Lodging, but being over persuaded we went to the first Ale-house that offered in *Rotherhitb.* There, having engaged a private Room, he let me into the Whole of his History, *viz.* That, since I left *England*, he had disoblged his Father by repeated Wildnesses, and the Consequence had been his Expulsion from Home, where he had neither lodged or eat for upwards of three Months; that having called one Day, in order to beg Pardon, and endeavour to palliate Affairs, by a Protestation of future Amendment, he had, by the old Gentleman's Orders, been violently thrust out of Doors, with a severe Injunction never to repeat his Visit, and the Servants soundly disciplined for daring to permit his Entrance at that Time. Ever since, he said, he had lived in a most uncomfortable Manner; sometimes by writing for the Lawyers, a Set of Gentlemen, who (in general) whatever they may get themselves, seldom suffer their wretched Dependents to profit much; at others, transcribing fair Copies for Poets, who, being under the perpetual Condemnation of half-starved Lives, cannot be supposed to afford an *Emancipation* any very liberal Gratuity. "I am at present," added he, "destitute of all Provision, except what the Wench I before spoke of gets, after a Manner shameful to describe, and which gives me the utmost Pain to partake; but what can I do? — I was bred, no more than yourself, to Trade. I have one very good Friend indeed, whom I have not yet applied to, and I know him to be very intimate with Squire P——, lately appointed Governor of *****, to which Place he is very shortly going. I am persuaded that, by this Gentleman's Means, I can obtain some Employment that I am capable of; and as to the Objections that People generally raise against quitting their native Country, I despise such mistaken Prejudices, and shall ever esteem that Spot most worthy

" Regard,

“ Regard, that furnishes to me the Means of exchanging
 “ Penury for Plenty, and a Life of Contumely for one
 “ of Reputation.”

I WAS sorry thus to find in the Person of my old School-Fellow, one as little favoured by Fortune as myself; or, to deal more ingenuously, one who had equally affronted her: However, I did my best to comfort, and persuade him to put this last-mentioned Design of his into Execution with all convenient Haste, as an Expedient which might not only be the Means of extricating him from his Difficulties, but possibly of promoting him in Life, farther than his present Imaginations could reach. “ I have,” said he, “ my Friend, opened myself thus far to you, by Way of Prologue to a Request that I have to make, which, I flatter myself, you will not deny, when I tell you it will not be detrimental to you, though infinitely serviceable to me.”

I ASSURED him, that I should take Pleasure in contributing, by any honest Means, to the Happiness of an entire Stranger; and certainly much readier to that of a Person, in Fellowship with whom I had spent so many of my junior Days, when neither had any Reflection more than Peace and Pleasure brought, ignorant of the malevolent Strokes that our separate Destinies had in reserve for us. “ Why then,” said he, taking me by the Hand, “ the Affair is this——“ I am almost certain of succeeding with the Gentleman I have already spoke of, in some Shape or other; but I must first get rid of the Clog that is upon me, in the Person of the Woman with whom I cohabit; and who, by an ignorant Insolence that generally accompanies such Creatures, will embarrass all my Undertakings. It has been only the Knowledge of her curs'd Disposition, that has prevented my Application to that Quarter long before this Time, for a bare Hint of the least Prosperity would drive her mad——Now were you so kind as to permit me to lodge with you, for a Fortnight or three Weeks (in which Time I hope to compleat my Project) I shall by that Means shake her off. Being an entire Stranger to this Part of the Town, she will never think of extending her

“ Enquiries

“ Enquiries hither ; but will take it for granted that I
 “ am either gone to Sea, or into the Country to enlist
 “ with some of the Marching Regiments, which, in
 “ my despairing Fits, she has often heard me declare
 “ that I would, rather than drag on so miserable a Life,
 “ as I have lately been obliged to do.”

AFTER having heard him out, I assured him, That I approved his Resolution of quitting one whose Disposition was so bad, as he had represented it ; and whose abandoned Methods of living were such as no Man, that had a Grain of honest Principle or right Spirit left, but would prefer the blacking of Shoes, or the raking of Channels, to the sharing a Support obtained by them. As to his Proposition of lodging with me, I said, That he was entirely welcome, and I should be rejoiced in the Acquisition of such a Companion, provided my Landlord and Landlady had no Objections ; because I should then be happy in a Friend to advise and converse with, and we might become mutually serviceable to each other.

THIS Point thus discussed and settled, we called our Reckoning ; which amounting to Eighteen-pence, *Bloomer* discharged it. We next took a Scull, and went to the Ship, where we found the Captain ; who told me, That Mr. *Egerton* had paid him, and I was welcome to take my Chest ; advising me withal, to mind which Side my Bread was buttered on, and endeavour to reconcile myself to my Friends. I thanked him for his Hint, but, as I well knew the Impossibility of bringing such an Undertaking to bear, I considered it no farther.

C H A P. XVI.

Propose Bloomer to my Landlady, for a Partner in my Lodging ; to which she agrees. Some good News. Hear of the Death of Jonathan.

MY Chest being at length safely conveyed Home, by the Help of my Friend and my Landlord we removed it into a Back-Room at the farther End of the Shop, as it was too cumbersome to get it up the Stair-Case,

Case, which was remarkably narrow. I therefore emptied it by Degrees as it stood, which gave *Hudson* and his Wife (who were by all the while) an Opportunity of observing, That they were sure I had been Somebody by the good Provision that had been made for me, though my Stock was very considerably reduced from what I at first took Abroad. After I ranged and disposed of my Things as conveniently as the Furniture of my Apartment would permit, I proposed to my Landlady (who had hitherto been giving me her Assistance, and seemed mighty well satisfied with my Property) the Affair of *Bloomer*, with which she immediately acquiesced (upon my assuring her that he was an old Acquaintance of mine, and that I would be answerable for his Behaviour) but said, that she must have a Shilling more *per Week*, which he agreed to give; and thus we thought ourselves as happily settled, as two such Sons of Calamity could be — But very little Time convinced me of a Truth, that numberless Instances have since served to elucidate and confirm; namely, That Happiness oft wanders at the greatest Distance, when purblind Mortals hail it's near Approach: Like Water-Bubbles to the Infant-Mind, whose various Colours prompting them to seize, delude their little Hands and vanish in the Grasp.

BLOOMER and I were now no Strangers to the Circumstances of each other; we therefore, after having drank Tea, retired to our Room, to consult together what was to be done for present Support, having at length no more than one Sixpenny-Piece left.

My Companion, who had, among the Rank of People Necessity had urg'd him to associate with, been made acquainted with all the Shifts practised by the worse Sort of Indigent, was at no Loss to procure ready Money, if the Shadow of a Means were but administered; therefore assuming an Air of Mirth and Freedom, as though he had never been conversant with ill Fortune — “My Friend,” said he, “let me give you Joy.” — “Why you are as rich as *Cæsar*!” — “These Affairs of yours cannot be worth less than Thirty Pounds, the least Penny — I warrant you, long before they are Half gone, you shall, by some Scheme or other, be settled above the Fear of Want, or the
“least

“least Dependence on your Relations. The first Thing
“to be thought of,” continued he, is what Article
“among your Necessaries you have the least Occasion
“for.” “Why,” said I, “there is that Coat yonder,
“the Buttons are black and dirty, from having been
“long laid up, but they are Plate; and, I do assure
“you, cost Half a Crown each. There are two Dozen
“of them, suppose we cut them off and sell them, that
“Money will last us until we can turn round a bit.”
“A lucky Thought,” cried *Bloomer*; we’ll about it
“directly.”

No sooner said than done; they were whipt off in a
Trice, and he undertook to dispose of them to a Silver-
smith whom he knew, and who he was sure would
give full as much, if not more, than any of the Trade.
I very readily submitted to his Management, and was
well pleased that he had made the Offer, as it was a
Kind of Business that I was an absolute Novice at.
In less than an Hour after he left me, he returned with
Sixteen Shillings; which he protested was the most he
could get, having offered them at three several Shops;
before he applied to his Acquaintance, who had each
of them offered him less than he had at last received
there.

I DIVIDED the Money equally with him, which at
first he declined the Acceptation of: but, finding that I
insisted it should be so, he received it with vast Pro-
fessions of future Friendship and Gratitude, and the
Joy it seemed to give him reflected great Pleasure to
me.

WE lived very freely the Remainder of the Week,
and on the *Sunday* following (he not caring to venture
towards the St. *James's* End of the Town on any other
Day, being apprehensive of two or three little Affairs
that lay against him) *Bloomer* went to visit the Friend,
on whom he had told me his chief, and indeed only De-
pendence lay.

I TOOK the Opportunity of being alone that Day,
to write to my Friends in *Carolina*, particularly to
Fortescue Rogers, Esq; wherein I gave him a full Ac-
count of the Reception I had met with from my
Guardians; on what Bottom their neglect was grounded;
and

and begged an Answer, in Justification of the Measures I had taken: Which he was so good as to favour me with by the first Opportunity that he had, but which never came to my Hands until near four Years afterwards. Whether it was retarded by Accident or Design, I never knew; though, it is more than probable, it was by the latter, since the Contents of it were altogether in my Favour. I had likewise by that Letter an Account of the Death of my Friend *Baban*, soon after I left the Province, so that his intended Prosecution of *Ranken* proved abortive.

WHEN *Bloomer* came Home, which was during the Time we were at Supper, he said, He had been disappointed, for that his Friend was gone to *Bath*, but was expected Home by the latter End of the next Week. "Well," said my Landlord, "Disappointments cannot be helped, Sir: Come, sit you down, and do as we do," "Aye, aye, sit down, Sir; sit down," added my good Mistress, "sit you down, and let's be a little *joculous* — What signifies who's rich, and who's poor; 'twill be all one a hundred Years hence."

WE spent the Residue of this Night, as we had done that I gave an Account of some little Time before; sending the honest Couple to Bed, much in the same Sort of Pickle. After we got up Stairs, I sounded my Friend as to the Strength of his Pocket, who told me it contained no more than Two Shillings and Sixpence, which, with Eighteen-pence that I had, served us tolerably well until the *Thursday* Morning following; at which Time being quite aground, we held a Council, wherein it was resolved, that my Chest (as in all Probability I might never have Occasion for such a one more) should next be disposed of; and, at an old Broker's Shop in the Neighbourhood, *Bloomer* got Eleven Shillings for it.

THAT Money was likewise shared, and on the *Sunday* he went again to his Patron's; from whence about Five in the Evening he returned, and, in great Raptures, told me, That he had it now in his Power to desire that I would perplex myself no farther, in regard to my Affairs; for that he had dined with his Friend, who, after treating him in the most polite and generous Manner,

ner, had assured him that he might rest himself satisfied of going with the Governor, in a Station that would not only reflect Honour but Profit: "For," said he, it "is not barely on Account of an Intimacy with Mr. P——, that has subsisted between us many Years, that I give you this Hope; but that Gentleman is at present under Obligations to me of so cogent a Nature, that it is next to an Impossibility for him to deny me the Gratification of any Point, that I think proper to make a Request of."

"EMBOLDENED," said *Bloomer*, "by a Success that had thus got the Start of my fleetest Hopes, after having made him the proper Acknowledgment on my own Part, I took the Liberty of mentioning you and your Affairs to him. He listened to your Story with an affable Attention natural to him, and which ever distinguishes the Man of real Rank from the superficial Pretender to Greatness: At the Conclusion, he pitied your Misfortunes, and much blamed your Relations premature Conduct. He added, That he did not doubt but Mr. P——, on his Recommendation, backed by your own Accomplishments, would, without Scruple, receive you likewise into the Number of his Domesticks, if it might prove agreeable to you. You have only therefore to consult with yourself, whether just returning to your native Country, with the Wrongs and Hardships you sustained Abroad so recent on your Memory, you can so speedily resolve to quit it for the well-known Peril of the Seas, and the Hazards you may be again exposed to at a Distance from Home, and in the Midst of Strangers."

I TOLD him, That after the Treatment I had met with, from the only People who had it in their Power to make my Abode in *England* pleasant or irksome to me, it was amazing that he should imagine I would not give the Preference to any Change; be content to venture any Risque, rather than to remain on a Spot where I was sure to be despised, neglected, and probably starved. "Since you receive the News with so much Satisfaction," replied *Bloomer*, "I am transported that I mentioned the Thing to my Friend; who I am very
" certain

"certain will, now he has promised it, compleat Matters at once. This Day Sevensnight, I dare to lay a Wager, that I bring Home News the Affair is settled; and therefore," added he, "we'll have somewhat better than Hot-Pot to Night upon the Strength on't."

Mrs. *Hudson* said, She was very glad to hear as how Things were likely to turn out so well for us, poor dear Souls! *Tho'* she was sorry she was going to lose us so soon too: But what must be, must be; let all be done that can be.

WE sent for Ingredients, and made a swinging Bowl of Punch; which was soon sucked up, the young Fry being always Partakers on such Occasions: For it was a common Saying of that good Woman's, That her Guts *begrug'd* every Bit and Drop, that her Children did not share with her: And a fine guzzling, mangey little Crew we had about us, that's the Truth on't.—
The second Bowl sent us all to Bed, cheery.

NEXT Morning Mr. *Bloomer* was so kind as to lay up for me, at an *Uncle's* of his a Silk Camblet Coat, a blue Sattin Waistcoat, and a Pair of Velvet Breeches, all little the worse for Wear, and which originally cost above Twelve Pounds, in lieu of which he received one Guinea. We then lived gayly, because *Bloomer* said he told his Patron that we were both very bare of Necessaries, and that Gentleman had promised we should, before we sailed, be competently provided for.

THE *Thursday* following we were under the Necessity of applying again to our Friend, the Pawnbroker; who most courteously let us have Half a Guinea on three Pair of entire new white Silk Stockings, that cost a Guinea each, and had never been on the Leg. The succeeding *Saturday*, four Holland Shirts, six new Handkerchiefs, four Pair of new white Cotton Stockings, four Pair of Ditto, one Pair of new knit Worsted Breeches, and a Plaid Night-Gown as good as new, went all the same Way, for Three Guineas and a Half; which Money, according to Custom, was divided.

ON the *Sunday* Morning, after Breakfast, *Bloomer* went out, in order, as he said, to wait on his Patron.

As

As soon as he was gone, I sent one of the Children to *Jonathan*, the Barber's Apprentice, whom I had not seen for some Days past. To my great Surprise, I had the Mortification to hear that he lay at the Point of Death with a Fever. This News cast a prodigious Damp on my before exhilarated Spirits, and seemed sent by Providence to prepare me for a greater Shock, and one that I as little expected.

C H A P. XVII.

Treachery of Bloomer. Offer myself for a Soldier. Refused. Meet accidentally with one Sutton, an old Acquaintance and School-Fellow.

AS we were just sitting down to Supper, Somebody knocked; one of the Children, going to see who it was, returned with a Letter directed for me, and said, the Person who gave it, told her that it required no Answer. I knew the Hand to be *Bloomer's*, and was seized with a Flutter I could give no Account for; which, when I had tolerably got the better of, I broke the Seal, and found the Contents as under-written.

Mr. Du Plessis,

YOU will, perhaps, never see me more. I have used you ill it is true, according to the general Acceptation of the Term——At this Time, I don't doubt but you think so: But hereafter you will have Reason to esteem a Behaviour, that may prove a Safe-Guard against the future Deceits of Mankind, particularly that Species of them that bite the hardest Bosom-Friends. Farewell.——I would not have left you so soon, had any Thing remained worth staying for; but when the Fly hath no longer Blood, the Spider must engage in fresh Pursuits.

J. BLOOMER.

I WAS astonished at the reading this extraordinary Composition of insulting Impudence and most scandalous Ingratitude, and was at a Loss what Judgment to form.

form of it; at length, after having read it over several Times before my Landlord and Landlady, twisted the Sense a thousand Ways, and heard their ingenious Comments upon it, I could fix positively upon nothing, but went to Bed about Eleven o'Clock, with a Heart and Head full of Anxiety—There, when I coolly recollected that *Bloomer* had seldom brought me one Third of the Value of the Things that he had pawned, and had always made a Mystery of it in whose Custody they were; that he had, by his own Confession, been used to herd for many Months amongst the most infamous Dross of the Town, I could not help concluding, that the Letter contained a greater Portion of Verity than I had yet had from him, and that I might as well determine to sit down contented as possible with my Loss, and to trouble my Head no more concerning him. I indeed, for somewhat farther Satisfaction, went on purpose to *Bloomsbury-Square*; where, upon the strictest Enquiry, I found that there was not any such Person to be heard of, as *Bloomer's* pretended Friend.

ALL I had now to consider, was for some honest Method whereby to earn a Bit of Bread for myself. Whilst I continued in a State of Uncertainty on that Head, my Money diminished apace: The last Three Shillings I had in the World was consumed in the treating a Corporal and two Drums, to make Interest with the Serjeant of their Company to enlist me; whom they said was a very civil, good-humoured Gentleman, and they were sure would be very glad to entertain so likely a young Fellow as I was: But however they took especial Care that I should never see the Serjeant, so long as I had a Farthing left in my Pocket; when (after carrying me from one House to another all Day long, pretending each to be the Place where they expected to meet him) they found they had sucked me entirely dry, they at last conducted me to the Serjeant's House; where all the Satisfaction I received, for the Loss of my Money and Time, was the hearing from his own Mouth, that I was not tall enough by an Inch and a Quarter: But on being satisfied in regard to my Age, he was so kind, as well as cunning, to inform me, that, in a Couple of Years more, there was
a Pro-

a Probability of my growing a Couple of Inches; and that, at such Time, he should be glad to talk with me, but at present had nothing farther to say.

WITH a heavy Heart, and light Pockets, I bade the Men of War good Night; and strolled homeward, little content with my Enterprize. I could not help reflecting on the entire Misery that I was likely to suffer, since refused Admittance into a Body, so cheaply esteemed by the rest of Mankind, and whose Provision is scarcely sufficient to keep Life and Soul together.

IN this Situation, without a single Farthing, or any Means of getting one, what could I more reasonably think of than an Application to them, whose Duty it was to relieve me? I accordingly sent Letter after Letter, but all in vain. I might as well have wrote to the good King *Charles* at *Charing-Cross*, and with as much Probability hoped Favours from him, as them——Their Hearts were as hard as his Doubler.

THE only true Friendship I had hitherto met with, since my Return to *England*, was from poor *Jonatban*, the Barber's Boy (whose Death much concerned me) and the honest Smith and his Wife, with whom I lodged; and who, though themselves were miserably poor, never sat down to a hot Meal, if I were in the House, without asking me to partake of it, and on every Occasion contributed their true Share of Joy or Grief, as my fluctuating Circumstances furnished them the different Motives.

THE little Spirit that I am Master of prevented me from making the Use that I might have done of those People's Openness of Heart, often indeed to the manifest Danger of my Health; since, rather than encroach on them, I have gone whole Days without Sustenance of any Sort.

ON one of those melancholy Days, as I was returning to my Lodging, I accidentally met one *Harry Sutton*, with whom I had formerly been at School, in the County of *Surry*. We were each pleased with the Rencounter, and *Harry* proposed taking a Glass of Wine at an adjacent Tavern. This giving me Occasion to recollect the meeting with *Bloomer*, after the same Fashion; "I would go with you, *Harry*," said I, "and

“ and that gladly, but first must beg you to answer me a
 “ Question ; and promise, moreover, that you will take
 “ no Displeasure at it.” On satisfying me that he would
 not, I demanded if he had any Money in his Pocket ?
 He replied, Yes, do you want any ? “ No, said I, “ I
 “ am content. I will give you my Reason why I took
 “ upon me to interrogate you so abruptly, when we shall
 “ be more at Liberty.”

I FOLLOWED him into a Tavern, where, after having
 let him into an Account of the Accident that happened on
 my first Interview with *Bloomer*, and likewise how the
 Case now stood with me, he generously split a Crown in-
 to my Hand ; telling me withal, That he was extremely
 sorry the narrow Limits Fortune had prescribed would
 not suffer him to do more : “ But I thought,” added he,
 “ that when we were at School (by your Discourse there)
 “ you had then a very good Prospect of Success in Life,
 “ through the Interest of Lord L ———, your Father’s
 “ Patron.” “ At that Time, Friend *Harry*,” replied I,
 with a Sigh, “ I had so, and I had good Reason for it ;
 “ but Fortune, that delights in turning the Affairs of
 “ poor Mortals topsy-turvy, hath played such wanton
 “ Gambols with mine, as will sufficiently amaze you in
 “ the Repetition.”

AT his Request, I gave him an Abstract of every Thing
 that had befallen me, from the Moment of our Separation
 to the present ; and when I had finished the Narrative
 of my Life, I desired that of his — “ O, as to mine,” said
 he, smiling, “ it admits of very little Variety ; or at
 “ least is of so peculiar a Sort, as you must first be well
 “ acquainted with the Nature of, before you can relish :
 “ In short, spite of Advice from Parents and Friends, I
 “ could not be easy until I had sacrificed all Thoughts of
 “ Business, to follow the Bent of my own Inclinations
 “ which led me to the Theatre ; whereon, although I
 “ have not the Vanity to imagine that I shall ever get an
 “ Estate, yet I think I shall always be able to procure a
 “ tolerable Livelihood ; and that, as Times go, many
 “ Men, much more meritorious than myself, find it a
 “ very difficult Matter to obtain.”

C H A P. XVIII.

Sutton advises me to turn Comedian. Agree to it. Am accepted by Mr. Dapper, Manager of a Company, collected from the Theatres Royal, for the Summer Season.

“**Y**OUR Case,” continued Sutton, “as it now stands, I look upon to be extremely hard; and cannot see what it is you can possibly propose, whereby to procure Bread, unless you have a Mind to take on, and become one of us—Why do you laugh?—I don’t know any Thing you can think of better. Nay, said I, I believe I should like it well enough, if I thought myself capable; but there are so many Things against me”—“Faith,” said he, “I don’t see one against you. You have a good Figure, a good Voice, tolerable Education—What do you imagine wanting?—I tell you, it is the only Thing for you. — I am myself going out with a Company this ensuing Summer, collected from the Theatres, of which one Mr. Dapper is deputed Manager. I will speak to him of you, if you will give me Leave—I dare to say he will be glad to engage you.”

I FELL in with my Friend Sutton’s Advice, and empowered him with full Commission to treat for me as he thought proper. This Affair settled, I moved that, if it was agreeable to him, we might have a Morfel of somewhat to eat, for I was then fasting; and that the Wine, upon an empty Stomach, I was afraid would make me sick. He was sorry, he said, that he had not made the Proposal, but the Warmth of Discourse had prevented him. He then rang the Bell, and gave Orders for a Dish of *Scotch Collops*. — The Sound rejoiced me, but the Sight of them made me half mad; for I had not set down to so agreeable a Meal, and so elegantly decorated, a long while before.

AFTER we had dined, and near finished a second Bottle of Port, my Friend Harry, apologizing for his Rudeness, told me the Necessity he lay under of being punctual

to

to an Appointment, prevented him the Pleasure of longer Stay with me for the present, but that he would be sure that very Night to mention my Affair to Mr. *Dapper*; and gave me a Direction to meet him the next Morning, at a Coffee-house near *Covent-Garden*, which I promised him to do. He then discharged the Reckoning, gave me a hearty Squeeze by the Hand, and bade me farewell.

I RETURNED Home with a much merrier Heart than I set out in the Morning; which being evident in my Eyes, my Landlord said, He'd be hanged if I had not met with some good Luck or other; to which having answered, that indeed I had so: "Aye, aye," said he, "God may try an honest Man to the last, but "he'll never forsake him."

I TOLD the good Folks, at Supper, all that had passed between *Sutton* and myself; and my Resolution to embrace his Scheme, as the only one I could hit on to keep me from Beggary. The old Man said I was quite right; that, for his Part, he never saw a Play in his Life but once, and that was about a Lord-Mayor and his Cat, at *Southwark Fair*; and he thought he should have split his Sides, with laughing at the Devil and the Baker. "Aye," said "his Wife, "but little *Nimble-Biscuit*, that come to "light the Court-Gentry Home, he was the best of "all—But that was a Shew, you Nincompoop-Fool "you; a Play is another Sort of Thing, where they "be all live Men and Women—and a deal of Mo- "ney they get too by their Tricks. I am sure I could "hardly pass along for Coaches, one Night last Week—"I don't know which of the Plays it *ware*; but the "Folks about told me as how it was a Benefit, I "think they called it; and as how, he that was the "Master that Night would get a Matter of a Hun- "dred Pound clear all into his own Pocket."

"I SHOULD like," replied the old Man, "to see "our Lodger here get such a Night to his own "Share. S'blood, he would not speak to such poor "Toads as you and I then, *Bess*, ha!—He'd be a- "bove us then."

IN such Kind of Chat we pass'd away the Evening, and it was the happiest that I had spent for a great while. It was late in the Morning before I wak'd; that is to say, turn'd of Nine o'Clock; nor had I then, but for one of the Children's rapping at the Door, to let me know Breakfast was ready. After that was dispatch'd, I repair'd to the Place appointed by *Sutton* the preceding Day.

THE Coffee-Room was crouded with Gentlemen; some traversing backward and forward, some reading the Papers, some at Picquet, others at Back-gammon; but all so richly dress'd, that I was much afraid I had mistaken the House: However, stepping up to the Bar, behind which sat a good motherly Sort of a Gentlewoman, I ask'd her in a Whisper, if one Mr. *Sutton* us'd to come there? To which she very civilly answer'd, That he did, but that it was not yet his Time. I left Word that I would call again in less than an Hour, and set my Name down on a Slate, given me for that Purpose. I then made a Bow to the Lady of the House, and half a Dozen (of a better Sort) to the Customers; who, by their Looks, seem'd to demand such an Homage, and yet offer'd no Sort of Return to it, but by Horse-laughs (even before my Back was turn'd) which I could not help thinking a little rude; but comforted myself with considering, that People of Wealth and Distinction are above all those Rules and Prescriptions, which Laws and Customs have provided for restraining the Licence of the Vulgar.

I SAUNTER'D about the Piazzes of *Covent-Garden*, until the Time came round for my Return to the Coffee-House, where I then found *Sutton*. He was engaged at Backgammon with a Gentleman of small Stature, dress'd in a very rich Morning-Habit, consisting of a crimson Velvet Cap, red Cloth Banyan with gold Buttons and Loops, a green Satin Waistcoat, the Silk of which was hardly perceptible, on Account of a rich and broad gold Lace that almost cover'd it, black Velvet Breeches, white Silk Stockings, and red *Morocco* Slippers. I thought my Friend *Harry* treated such a fine Gentleman very familiarly, calling him by his

Christian Name several Times; and even swore at him one or twice, when he did not play to please him.

AFTER the Game was up, my Friend ask'd the Gentleman to go into a private Room, and beckon'd me to follow them. When we were alone, he recommended me to him; saying, That I was the young Man, of whom he had been speaking the Night before. The other advanc'd very courteously, and took me by the Hand; which I tender'd him with abundance of Respect, scraping and bowing all the Time, as if he had been the Premier of the Nation. "Mr. Sutton, Sir," said he, "hath inform'd me of your Story, and that you have an Inclination to make an Essay for a Maintenance from the Theatre; and I think you are in the right of it, for I can perceive no Manner of Bar to your Progression in that Science: And the Method of commencing in the Country, is what I would recommend to a Brother, if he propos'd the Stage for a Livelihood. It will be a Means of ridding you, by imperceptible Degrees, of those Fears and Apprehensions that constantly attend raw Practitioners, and enable you to make the better Appearance on the Metropolitan Theatres; to one or other of which there is no Doubt of your being call'd.

THE Condescension of Mr. Dapper (whom I found this Personage to be) encourag'd me to ask him the most essential Questions, *viz.* What Business I must expect to be employ'd in? And what Advantage I might expect to reap from the Employment? As to the first, he told me, That as I was very young, and totally to seek in the Nature of that Profession; and besides, that as it was a very great Company I was going to join myself withal, the most useful Body of People indeed that went from London to perform during the Summer Vacancy, I could not expect any other but Parts of little Note would come to my Share; and which, as a Friend, he thought the properest for me, because they would give me but little Trouble in the Study, accustom me to the Tread of the Stage, and not subject me to the Prejudice of an Audience, whose
Resent-

Resentment often fell on young Performers, in their undertaking of Parts too laborious and consequential. I look'd on this Argument as entirely reasonable; and since my Motives for entering into that Method of Living, had not their Source from Vanity or Liking to it, but meerly for the Sake of Eating, I was rather pleased than disgusted with it.

"As to your other Question," said he, "the Gains of a Country Company are so irregular, that there is no positive Determination can be made of them.—I'll give you an Account, in as concise a Manner as I can of the Affair, by which you may be able to form your Judgment.—After the Play is over, the Cash taken that Night, be it Thirty, Forty, or Fifty Pounds, more or less, is produced: From which gross Sum the Charges having been deducted, which perhaps may amount to Eight or Nine Pounds, the Remainder is equally divided by the Manager amongst the Performers, as far as it will go.—I have one Thing to remark to you though Sir," continu'd *Dapper*, "which is this; our Company is at present so very full, that your Friend, Mr. Sutton, although he has belong'd to one of the Royal Theatres upwards of three Seasons, and is allow'd a promising young Man, yet cannot be accommodated better with us than at three Quarters of a Share: Now, if you are willing to accept the other Quarter, I will be answerable (tho' I have not yet spoke to any one of them) that the Company will be very well pleas'd to receive you on those Terms."

I ASK'D him, what he thought a Quarter of a Share might amount to weekly? To which he replied, That if the Company met with Success proportionable to their Merit, it might be worth Sixteen Shillings a Week: "But if," added he, "you will come and dine with me To-morrow, with your Friend *Harry*, we'll talk farther about it; at present I am a little engag'd, and therefore hope you'll excuse me. My Hour is Two, and I beg you'll not let it slip your Memory"—
Small Danger o' that, thought I to myself. I made

him a proper Return to his Civility, and he took his Leave of us.

AFTER he was gone, I observ'd to *Sutton* what a strange Confusion I had been under, the first Time that I came to the Coffee-house to enquire for him, at the finding myself on a sudden surrounded by such Crouds of finer Folks than I had ever been accustom'd to, and, who I suppos'd were the major Part People of Distinction. He laugh'd very hartily at my Ignorance; and told me, That those Gentlemen were every one of them Performers, belonging to one or other of the Theatres; and that it was very rarely that any other than such came to that House. "Surely the Profession of an Actor must be a most glorious one then," said I, "that can enable them to go clad in that sumptuous Manner, and to live (as no Doubt they do) in all other Points correspondent." *Harry* said little to this Inference of mine, only smil'd; and gave me a written Direction where *Dapper* lodg'd, and so we parted for that Time; he to his Home, and I to mine.

THE next Day having met again at the same Place, we proceeded to *Dapper's* Lodgings. He receiv'd us in a most complaisant Manner.—If the Habit of himself, and others of the same Profession, had before inspir'd me with favourable Sentiments of a Calling to which I was yet a Stranger, they were not in the least diminish'd from the Observations that I made of every Article of his Furniture, which was elegant enough for the Apartments of a Man of the first Fortune. His Wife, a Person of majestick Mein, fair Complexion, handsome Features, and an open, pleasant Countenance, did the Honours of a Table (decorated with Plenty and Propriety) in a Manner that charm'd me; and her Conversation oblig'd me to look on her, in the Light of a very sensible and discerning Woman.

AFTER I had seen the Bottom of a Couple of Bottles of excellent *Madeira*, I took my Leave of Mr. *Dapper*; who told me, That he had spoke concerning my Affair to the Company, and that I was look'd on as a Member. He farther begg'd, that, now I knew where he liv'd, I would

would call without Ceremony—and I promis'd him so to do.

C H A P. XIX.

*The said Company's Arrival at the City of ***** Their Success. My great Disappointment.*

AS Mr. *Dapper* had told me that the House, to which he belong'd, would break up in about a Fort-night's Time, I thought it necessary to make some Preparation against my intended Journey. I had no Money, and to open my Necessities to *Dapper*, both Pride and Modesty forbad. I consulted my Landlady on this Topick, as indeed I generally us'd on most Occasions; and, to do the Woman Justice, must own I have found the veriest Ignorants of them tolerable good Advisers at a Pinch, and so Mrs. *Hudson* prov'd then to me—
 “ You have,” said she, “ four Shirts, good as new;
 “ two of them, with your old ones mended up, which
 “ I will get done for you against the Time, will serve
 “ you very well, 'till you can do better: The other
 “ two, I will undertake to pawn for a Guinea. If that
 “ won't be sufficient, why there's your Ash-colour'd
 “ Frock, when there shall be a Set of new Buttons put
 “ on it, will fetch Half a Guinea more; and may-hap
 “ it may be in our Power to assist you with a Trifle
 “ besides, for we expect some Bills to be paid us every
 “ Day; and, if we have so, you shall be welcome to
 “ whatever we can spare, I do assure you.”

ABOVE a Week being elaps'd since I saw *Dapper*, in which Time I supported myself with all the Oeconomy that I was Master of, I one Morning paid him a Visit, and found him just sitting down to Breakfast. I was receiv'd, both by himself and Wife, in the same friendly Manner as before. He ask'd me, what had detain'd me so long from calling? Said, he was afraid that I had not been well; and would have come to me, if he had known where I lodg'd. “ Indeed, I wanted in
 “ a particular Manner to see you,” added *Dapper*,
 “ for these two or three Days last past; to acquaint

“ you, that *Saturday* come Se’nnight is fix’d for the
 “ last Night of our Company’s acting this Season. I
 “ shall myself and Family, with *Harry Sutton*, leave
 “ Town the *Tuesday* following, and I had put you
 “ down in my Mind to accompany us.” I told him,
 he had done me a Favour; and it would give me great
 Pleasure to be admitted of the Party.

EVERY Thing being thus settled, and nothing inter-
 vening to cross the Plan, nor any Accident happening
 in the Execution of it; I shall only say, we all got safe
 to the City of ***** , where I took up my Lodging
 in a Back-room, on a second Floor, at a *Chandler’s*;
 and would have boarded with the Family, only they
 didn’t chuse it: My Landlady, in Excuse, pleading, a
 Parcel of small Children, that would be doubtless dis-
 agreeable to me; irregular Times of Eating, that she
 was sure would not suit with a Gentleman; and other
 Speeches to the same Purpose; signifying no more or
 less, than that she did not want my Company—I took
 the Hint, and troubled her no farther.

It was on a *Thursday* we arriv’d in Town, and on
 the *Monday* following (which I much long’d for) the
 Company propos’d to open with the Play of *The Pro-
 vok’d Husband*, Bills having been distributed to that
 Purport.

ON the *Sunday* in the Afternoon as I was reading
 in my Room, after having din’d (by Invitation) with my
 Landlord and Landlady, Mr. *Dapper* call’d on me, and
 with him *Sutton*, *Owen*, *Mold*, *Fashion*, and *Easy*, all
 Members of the Company. I had not, ’till then, seen
Easy, who arrived but the Night before. I read
 somewhat in his Countenance and Behaviour that gave
 me great Pleasure, and a stronger Attachment to him
 than I bore to *Dapper*, or even to my old School-Fel-
 low *Sutton* himself; in Consequence of this spontane-
 ous and irresistible Esteem, I gladly embrac’d the Com-
 pany’s Scheme for a Walk, which brought us, in the
 Close, to a House of Entertainment about two Miles
 from the City, very pleasantly situate by the River’s
 Side; and which, for Abundance of Company that
 frequent it on *Sundays*, the goodness of it’s Liquor, and
 Furniture

Furniture of it's Larder, is not altogether unlike *Jenny's-Whim* at *Chelsea*.

As I had been pleas'd with the modest and smooth Carriage of *Easy*, I was entirely charm'd with his Conversation, which plainly demonstrated the Scholar, the Man of Sense, and the Gentleman; and vastly differ'd from the frothy low Jests, superficial Arguments, and numberless Absurdities, that so frequently escap'd the rest of them.

By some Means or other the Discourse, that had been hitherto general, turning on me and my Affairs, *Easy* seem'd desirous of being acquainted with my Story. I at his Request, join'd to that of the rest of the Company, enter'd upon it; and went through the Whole, without the least Omission, as far as my Recollection serv'd me. At the Conclusion of my Tale, *Dapper* express'd great Wonder, to hear that I had not at present my Money in my own Hands; in which Article he said he had been misinform'd, or otherways he had not given me so much Encouragement as he had done to join the Company. I innocently begged of him, not to make himself uneasy about it; since I dar'd to say that, with a proper Frugality, I could make Sixteen Shillings a Week do very well; "Which you know," "Sir," added I, you told me would be the least I should "get by my Quarter of a Share."

On the mention of my Terms, which every one there, except *Easy*, had been before made acquainted with; all, but him, burst into a loud Fit of Laughter, for the which he reprimanded them; saying, That he saw very little to laugh at; that they must have terrible Hearts, who could make Misery a Theme for Diversi-on: Then, turning to me, he ask'd, If it was indeed true that I had been engaged by Mr. *Dapper*, on a Quarter of a Share? To which having answered, that it was; he again question'd, Whether I had any Idea of the Nature of Sharing, and the Business I had enter'd myself Member of? I answer'd, No farther than that Necessity had oblig'd me to the latter, in Hope of Subsistence; and that as to the former, I had no other Notions concerning it, than those I had embib'd from

the Conversation of Mr. *Dapper*, and my Friend *Sutton*.
 “Neither the one or the other of them have behav’d
 “well to you,” said he; “because they were both suf-
 “ficiently acquainted with the Business, to know that
 “you cannot have any Thing like a Maintenance, by
 “the Agreement you have been drawn into.”

As we return’d Home, *Dapper*, having taken an Opportunity of singling me from the others, tax’d me with deceiving of him, in Point of my Circumstance. I said, it was possible that he might have mistaken what I told him. “By G——d,” replied he, with a good deal of Warmth, “if either yourself or *Sutton* did not tell
 “me, that you had Three Hundred Pounds in your
 “own Possession, I was mistaken indeed; and more so
 “too, than ever I was before in my Life: But however
 “that be, Mr. *Du Plessis*,” continued he, “I think
 “the best Thing you can do, as you see the Company
 “are not in general pleas’d with my having engaged
 “you, and likewise imagine you will not make it worth
 “your own while to continue with them; I say, the
 “best Thing you can possibly do, is to return forth-
 “with to your Friends, acknowledge all Faults, and
 “make up Matters with them as well as may be.” I
 replied, That I could not think of it——I should be
 very sorry to be Burdensome to the Company; and, to
 the End I might appear the less so, I should endeavour,
 by all the Measures that I could devise, to be of
 as much Service as possible. When *Dapper* perceiv’d
 me entirely bent on the Resolution I had taken, he said
 no more.

THE next Evening I found the Remonstrances, that
 had been made to me the Day before, were not without
 due Weight. Our Play, though introduc’d to the Publick
 under all the Advantages of new Cloaths, Scenes,
 and other Decorations, such as had never been exhibited
 in that City before, and acted extreamly well, met with
 very little Encouragement; the Cash brought to Account,
 not amounting to a Sum sufficient to defray the common
 Expences of the Night.

THE *Wednesday* following, poor *Othello* met the same
 Treatment, though personated by *Mold* himself; who
 had

had so far establish'd his Reputation in *London* for that Character, as to have drawn the Town after him for two successive Seasons. It may be, the Change of Air had affected his Powers; but, whatever was the Cause, the Loadstone had lost it's Attraction.

THE *London Cuckolds* (at the Request of *Mrs. Mayor*) put us into some Degree of Spirits, our Receipt to that Play being Thirty-six Pounds odd Shillings: However, the Manager thought proper to take it all up, towards defraying the Deficiencies of the past bad Nights; and the Overplus, against another Shock of the same Kind.

THE *Fair Quaker of Deal*, being next play'd, brought a tolerable House, *viz.* Ten Pounds Seventeen Shillings; from which Product the Company shar'd a Shilling each, making a Reserve of the Remainder: So that by playing four Times, my Profits were no more than Three-pence, in lieu of the Sixteen Shillings I had vainly relied on.

CHAP. XX.

*Make a fresh Agreement with the Company. Return to London. At the Advice of Friends engage in a Strolling Company. A Description of Hackwell the Manager. Set out with him from London, and arrive at ***** A Description of Part of the Company.*

AMAN, less confident than I in the right Dispositions of Providence, would have probably hang'd himself on such a Disappointment, as mention'd in the foregoing Chapter; but it was always a Method of mine to prefer Patience to Passion, and give Mirth the Right-Hand of Melancholy.

OUR Affairs rather went worse than better; when, towards the Middle of the third Week, Mr. *Easy* came to me one Night, and, in a very genteel Manner, said, That the Company in general were very sorry, the Badness of their Prospect there would not permit them to make me a better Offer, but that if I would accept of Five Shillings a Week and the Half of a Benefit, they were

very ready to enter into such an Agreement with me ; and that, as to his own Part, he would advise me by all Means to take it, and sling up the Quarter of a Share, since he was very sure that a Whole one would not amount to above Eight or Nine, one Week with another. I readily agreed to this Proposal, and thank'd him for his friendly Interposition in my Favour.

THIS Money, with the Addition of writing out Parts under the Prompter (with whom I had made an Intimacy) did tolerably well.—As *Easy* had said, it indeed happen'd. I had good Reason to rejoice at my new Bargain, since there were very few of the Sharers that were not considerably out of Pocket, beside all their Fatigue and Trouble.

AT our return to *London*, every one being provided for, in one or other of the Houses, except myself, I return'd to my old Lodgings ; where my poor Landlord and his Wife were as much rejoiced to see me, as though I had come Home loaded with Money, and Heaven knows my Freight of that Sort was very light ; as near I can recollect about Eight or Nine Shillings, the Remainder of Six and Twenty that I had clear'd by my Half Benefit. But altho' I was not much richer than when I left *London*, yet I had form'd such an Acquaintance as would not permit me to suffer the Extremity of wanting a Meal's Meat ; a Contingency that I had, before my going into the Country, often labour'd under.

OUR Prompter, whose Name was *Formal*, had given me, as well as Mr. *Dapper*, an Invitation to be free with his Table whenever I thought proper. At length I became an absolute Boarder with the former, and I very well earn'd my Victuals, by helping him in his Business ; which had I not, he must have paid People to do, and that Expence would have amounted to more Money than my two Meals a Day stood him in ; for I seldom stay'd to sup, because I lodg'd at so great a Distance from him.

As I was now determin'd for a theatrical Life, it was the conjunctive Opinions of *Formal* and *Dapper*, that in order to accustom myself thoroughly to the Use of the Stage, it was necessary that I should enter, for some little

tle Time, in a Strolling-Company, before I offer'd myself to either of the Houses in *London*. I believ'd they both of them meant this Advice well, and therefore did not hesitate in the assuring them that I would embrace the Scheme propos'd, with the first Opportunity that offer'd.

It was one Day in the middle of *Passion Week* (a vacant Time with Mock-Heroes and Heroines, and in which those Managers of Country-Companies, who are happily stock'd with Money sufficient for the Expence of the Journey, generally repair to *London*; either to make new Purchases of old Cloaths, or to recruit their shatter'd Remains with fresh Sons of Tribulation) that *Formal* came Home, and, with great Rapture exclaim'd, That after he had been rebuff'd by five or six of those extraordinary sublime Potentates, in Consequence of Objections made to my Rawness in the Business, he had at length met with one hardy enough to engage me, with all my Imperfections on my Head. He added, That he had invited him to Dinner the next Day purposely to see me, and that we might have some Chat together.

At Night I told the good Folks where I lodg'd what had happen'd, and desir'd them to get all my Things ready for a March, since I waited only the Word of Command. I farther gave them to understand, that they must not expect Payment now of what I ow'd them, but that they might depend on having some sent to them, by every Opportunity that Advantage should furnish me withal. They were very well content, they said; put an entire Confidence in me; and declared, that I should be welcome to lodge with them whenever I pleas'd, with or without Money—that should make no Odds: Nay, on the least Notice, they should ever be ready to displace any Person, to make Room for my Entertainment.

When I came the next Day, about Twelve, to *Formal's* Lodgings, I found there a little, pert-looking Fellow, in a shabby Silver-laced Hat, a coal-black, cut Bob-Wig, a grey Barragon Frock, and a yellow Thread-Sattin Waistcoat (though in the Beginning of the Month
of

of *March*) Buckskin Breeches, white Silk Stockings splash'd, as though it had been done for the Purpose, the Cloth on which they were grafted appearing above the Quarters of his Turn'd-Pumps.

FORMAL, introducing me, told him, That I was the Person he had spoke concerning : Upon which he arose and saluted me, and then resum'd the Discourse that my Entrance had interrupted him in ; which I found to be a Detail of his Morning's Business, in the Course of which, he said, he had laid out between Forty and Fifty Pounds, and had nothing to shew for't, except one new Gown for his Wife. He begg'd Mrs. *Formal* to forward Dinner as much as she could, because he was oblig'd to go afterwards to the farthest Part of *Wapping*, in order to engage a young Lady, who had an excellent Voice ; and, as he had been credibly inform'd, was disgusted with the ill Treatment she had met with from the notified *Parker*, the Fire-Eater, with whom she at that Time appear'd in the double Capacity of Singer and Sword-Dancer, between the Acts of a Puppet-Show — and could eat Fire upon a Pinch, as well as her Master. *Hackwell* (for that was his Name) would fain have persuaded me to accompany him, on the aforesaid Expedition ; but I, by pleading much Business to transact, as I was to leave *London* the *Monday* following, he excus'd me.

On the *Sunday* I went to acquaint my old Friend *Sutton* and *Dapper* with this News, and to take my Leave of them. The latter insist'd on my dining with him, approv'd my Plan extreamly, and encouraged me in the Pursuit of it. Before I left his Apartment, he made me several valuable Presents ; I mean so far valuable, as they were Necessaries, such as I could not do without on the Stage.

At my return to *Formal's* Lodging, I found that my Box had been left there, according to my Order, when I took leave of my Landlord and Landlady, I designing no more to return to that End of the Town.

About Five o'Clock on *Monday* Morning, I went to the *White Swan* Inn, at *Holborn-Bridge* ; where I found *Hackwell*, who had lain there. He told me, That he had

had had me book'd as an Outside-Passenger, at Half-Price ; but added (upon seeing me look a little sour) That if I did not like it, he would change Places with me altogether ; or otherwise, we would ride withinside the Coach alternately. Good Manners would not suffer me to insist on the former Part of his Offer, but I very readily came into the latter——and he as readily forgot that he had made it ; never, after we had once set off, saying a Word more of the Matter.

NOTHING happening material at Dinner, or on the Road, I must take you with me to a little, dirty-looking Inn, that stands at the first Entrance of as pitiful and mean-appearanced a Market-Town as any in *England*, containing about thirty Houses, as they are nicknam'd ; for I think there are not above four, at most, that deserve the Title——all the rest were Trumpery.

IN this most superb Place, at the Sign of *Entertainment for Man and Horse*, we were set down. To add to the Confusion I was under at the outward View of our Theatre (which I rightly concluded that to be) a tall meagre Figure presented himself at the Turn of the Corner, talking, in a most majestic Manner, after a ragged Dog of a Drummer, with a great Mob of Boys and Girls at his Heels ; amongst whom he was distributing Bills, wrote upon Half-Quarters of Whitey-brown Paper. As soon as he espied *Hackwell* (who was then discharging the Coachman) he ran to embrace, and congratulate him on his Return ; and, without any Regard to the Passengers (two Clergymen and three young Ladies) “ By G—d,” said he, “ I'm glad you're come back, *Shaver*. We have been all starving, ever since you pik'd. There's that old Rogue *Wilkinson*, if you hadn't come as you did, d—n me, if him, and *Jackson*, and *Rollins*, had not run away, and made up a Common-Wealth.”

THE People in the Coach were struck with treble Astonishment at the Appearance, Garb, and Phrase of this Mortal. As to the Girls, I dare say, they would have been glad, had Time permitted them to a more minute Satisfaction of their Curiosity, than that they had receiv'd from some Bills, the Drummer had taken Care to supply

supply them with : But one of the Parsons demanding, with an austere Tone, of the Coachman, Why he did not go on ?—Were they to be kept there all Night ?—occasion'd him to lash his Steeds forwards at such a Rate, that we presently lost Sight of the Vehicle.

I was then desired to walk in by Mr. *Hackwell*, who introduc'd me to his Apartment, as he call'd it ; which was, literally speaking, a Room on the Ground-Floor, for no other Flooring had it. Bare Walls they were not, but had been much handsomer so than ornamented, as they were, with the Shadows of Things, once known by the Names of Tyes, Brigadiers, Spencers, Bags, and Majors ; with here and there a dirty red or white Feather, two or three old scabby Vizards, rusty, lockless Pistols, sheathless Swords and Daggers, ragged Turbants, Dog-Chains, and Buskins ; with many other necessary Implements, appertaining to the Professors of the *Theopian* Science.

C H A P. XXI.

A whimsical Accident. Some Account of Mr. and Mrs. Doulour—Of the Theatre—Of a Play, and the Performers.

BEFORE I had Time to give my wand'ring Opticks their full Scope, Mrs. *Hackwell* enter'd the Room. I, making more Haste than good Speed to salute her, on her Husband's Recommendation of me, tumbled headlong over something that stood between us, from whence issued a lamentable Squawling ; the Consequence of which brought a tall, scragged Female upon my Back, who roar'd out, with a Voice hoarse enough to compleat the Work her hobgoblin Form had begun, and frighten a Man to Death, That I had kill'd her poor dear Babies, that lay in the Coffin. This seem'd a Kind of Paradox to me, who cou'd not suppose any mortal Hurt cou'd befall Carcasses so encrusted ; but she soon convinc'd me of my Mistake, and herself of her Childrens Safety. This poor Creature, for very Necessity (not being able to buy, or any Person of the Neighbourhood willing to lend her a Cradle) had been oblig'd, it seems, to make use of the poor *Ophelia's* Coffin, in stead of one.

AFTER

AFTER the Affair was made a little easy, and the Lady had suckled her half-starv'd Twins, she deposited them again in their Coffin, and, with a Lullaby, compos'd them to Rest. I fell into Conversation with her (Mr. Hackwell having retir'd with his Spouse) and, by Way of Reconciliation for my innocent Trespas lately committed, I call'd for a Shillingworth of Punch, but the Landlord said I had better have Eighteenpennyworth; so, lest he might be angry, I e'en order'd it, together with some Mutton-Chops for my Supper.

AFTER a Glass or two of the generous Liquid had gone round, Madam began to grow gracious. She told me, that the Company had been almost starv'd in that Town; that they all boarded and lodg'd together in the same House, and had made such Shifts that would amaze any one to think, the largest Receipt they had had, since they came thither (and that a bespoke Play too) not amounting to more than Eight-and-twenty Shillings; that the Lady of one 'Squire Norton of that Town had been a very great Friend to them (tho' she never came to Plays) having about three Days before sent them a Leg of Pork of eleven Pounds Weight, from her own Table, untouch'd. — It did smell a little strong indeed, she said; but it was very nice, for all that. That the same Lady, at two different Times, had sent them a Guinea, a Charity that stood 'em in great Stead. — O Heavens! thought I to myself, is it thus they treat the wretched Devotees of *Parnassus*? — Why was not I born a Bastard, stuck up at a Church-Warden's Knocker, and bound to a Chimney-Sweeper?

I ASK'd her, If it was not Play-Night? “Yes it is,” said she; “but I suppose we shall have our old Luck, “to dismiss” — “Because,” added I, “I should “imagine it is Time for you to think of dressing, “Madam.” “O,” replied she, “if we should play, “I have but a very little Part to do, and that's at the “latter End, so I am very easy about dressing — it is “only the *Welch Collier*” — “The *Welch Collier*!” return'd I, in Surprize; “O, yes,” said she, “and it “is reckon'd one of the best Parts that I do — For you “must know, I was a Maid-Servant at *Flint*, when
“Mr.

"Mr. *Dolour* came thither with a Company, and *ticed* me away—I wish he had broke his Neck, I am sure, before I had seen him."

THESE Words were scarce out of her Mouth, when *Dolour* came in, but (happily for her) he, not overhearing them, only ask'd her, Whether she thought he would stand freezing at the Door all Night, to wait upon her A—e? It being her Turn, it seems, to receive the Money, should there come any to receive.

THE Reason for her quitting her Post there, we have already accounted for. Her longer than ordinary Stay from it, some may imagine to have been occasion'd by the alluring Quality of the warm Punch; and perhaps those that do think so, may not be mistaken. "I am told, Sir," said *Dolour*, "you are come to join our Company." To which I having assented, he shook me by the Hand, heartily wish'd me Joy, and drank up every Drop of my Punch to confirm it.

AFTER sitting some Time, and seeing that I call'd for no more, he let fall a few Hints concerning a Footing, that was expected every fresh Member should pay; it having been a Custom, ratified by Example, Time immemorial. I answer'd, That that was a Thing I should by no Means be against, after we had remov'd to the next Town; which, I heard, would be on the Morrow. "Faith," said he, "I am glad on't, for this is a damn'd beggarly Hole. But come, won't you step and take a Peep at the Shew-Shop?" "O, aye," said I, "with all my Heart," and accordingly follow'd him.

It was by this Time near Seven o'Clock, and but five Persons in the House, which the Majority of the Company were for having discharg'd; when a Footman, from the 'Squire's, came to ask, If there would be any Play that Night? *Hackwell* questioned him, concerning the Number of People that were coming; to which being answer'd, That there were eighteen, and all for the best Places—"Aye, aye," said *Hackwell*, "Play!—Aye, to be sure—Run back, my good Friend, to the 'Squire; and tell him, that we will

"be

“ be ready to begin, as soon as ever his Worship and
 “ his Company come.—Do you, *Tom*, take the Drum,
 “ and go round the Town again—*Will Skin*, do you
 “ go along with him, and give out my Name for Capt.
 “ *Plume*, just arriv'd from *London*; and that, tho'
 “ greatly fatigu'd with my Journey, I purpose to do
 “ my best to entertain them, it being positively the
 “ very last Night of the Company's performing.”

THIS Skit, or Slang (as they term it) answered well, and they had, with the 'Squire's Company, a thundering House—A matter of Six Pounds Nine Shillings.—Whilst it was filling, I diverted myself in making Observations.

THE Theatre was neither better or worse than a large Stable; three Parts of which was, for the Reception of the Audience, divided into a Pit and Gallery, by a Board nail'd a-crofs, Breast high. Their Pit consisted of six Rows, which were composed of long Deals, laid cross old Chairs: The Gallery of eight, made up in the same Manner; only by the Help of some old Trunks of Trees, roll'd in from the adjoining Orchard, and cover'd with Earth, they had made an Eminence to command the Stage, which otherwise would have been scarce visible from that Part. All this (to save the Company Charges) had been generously undertaken and effected, by one who play'd several of the fine Gentlemens Characters, and was following the Occupation of a Journeyman-Carpenter, at what Time Glory hinted the Pursuit to him of a different Track.

I WAS told, That at the next Town Mr. *Hackwell* propos'd to open with a new Curtain, which I could not help saying I thought they stood in Need of; what they had then, being only a Parcel of different colour'd Dabs borrow'd from their Landlady, and which those Gentlewomen of the Company, that were acquainted with the Use of a Needle and Thread, had ingeniously tacked together.

THEY had but two Rolling Flats, as they call them, viz. Scenes that take up and let down occasionally, in the same Manner as the Curtain; the one representing

a Church, the other a Prison: So that their Audience were sure to be perpetually kept in Mind of a Wife and a Hangman. The Wings, that should have match'd these Flats, were in Number four; their Composition stain'd Paper, but so old and dirty, that what they had ever represented it was then impossible for the best Decypherer in the World to guess.

THE Humility of the Ladies I could not enough admire, who, notwithstanding the great Number of renown'd Characters they so frequently appear'd under, were yet so regardless of Pomp and Dignity, as to condescend to adjust their Têtes by small Modicums of Looking-Glass, fasten'd to the Hay-Rack——and one Dressing-Box serv'd them all.

THE Manager, Captain *Plume*, had he known one entire Speech of his Part, had been tolerable; but, for want of that, substituted so many Scraps of every different Piece that he could recollect, as compos'd a Jargon enough to have puzzled the most profound Connoisseurs of the *Drama*, to have guess'd at what he had been about. His first Dress was proper enough, being the same that he had travell'd in, with the Addition of Whip and Spatter-dashes, but his next (and the very best Suit that he had in his Wardrobe) was a second-mourning Frock trimm'd with black Frogs, a very dirty blue Sattin Waistcoat lac'd with Copper, Velvet Breeches (brought with him from *London*) and black, Silk Stockings; he having but two Pair of white which were both dirty.

His good Friend, Mr. *Worthy*, was personated by a Man, who had been struggling with the Vicissitudes of Fortune upwards of threescore Years; and, to add to the real Distress with which the severest Penury had sufficiently mark'd him, he wore an old Coat, once black, of thread-bare and ruffet Aspect; and the Antiquity of it's Make gave it the Appearance of one that had regularly descended, from the Use of one Undertaker to that of another, for a Century and Half at least. It was besides much too big for him every Way, and hung down to the Calf of his Leg. A Waistcoat of the coarsest Scarlet Duffel, with several Cases with-
out

out Molds, and some Molds without Cases, patch'd and dirty; black Leather Breeches, with a Gloss on them they had no original Right to; blue-grey Stockings, with several Darns above his Shoe; which, lest they might pass unnotic'd, were some of them done with a different coloured Worsted; a shabby Hat and Wig, black Stock, dirty Shirt, and dirty Shoes; all contributed to furnish out the most compleat melancholy Figure, that, I thank my Stars, I ever beheld.

CAPTAIN *Brazen*, was a little, pert, *Birmingham* Blacksmith; who, preferring Pleasure to Profit and Wantonness to Industry, had join'd the Company, when they were playing somewhere near that Town. This Fellow danc'd about the Stage, like a Pea upon a Drum head. His Stature (as before observ'd) was diminutive; his Face much scarified with the Small-Pox; Nose and Lips like an *African*; and, in his Dress (which was red Bays trimm'd with gilt Leather) he seem'd not an unlike Copy of the *Knave of Hearts*.

C H A P. XXII.

*Description of the Performance continued—Of a Stock-Supper—Of my Lodging. The Company remove from ***** to L.—*

SERJEANT *Kite*, as to his Performance of the Character, was very well: he being perfect Master of his Words, not uneasy in his Gesture, of good Size, and manly Visage, but most contemptibly habited. His Cap, and the Head of his Halberd, were of the same Manufacture, *viz.* Carteridge-Paper, fashion'd by a Bookbinder's Apprentice, whose Ingenuity had never let him rest quiet, until he had robb'd his Master, broke his Indentures, and incorporated himself with these great People. The other Part of the Halberd, in it's less honourable Days, had been distinguish'd under the Title of a Mopstick; which, not being quite long enough for the Purpose, had been ek'd out at Bottom, by the friendly Assistance of it's Cousin-German, the Broomstick. The Colour of his Garb was Searlet—

So

So far proper—but had not the 'Squire come to the Play that Night, I can't say what his Regimentals might have been, for he wore a great Coat belonging to that Gentleman; the which he having thrown off, *Kite* made so free as to ask his Leave to make use of, and the 'Squire was kind enough to grant the Request: But however, I could not help observing an Alteration in his Muscles every Time the Serjeant exerted himself, for it was with great Difficulty the Coat was lugg'd on upon him; though he wore nothing under it, but a Lamp-lighter's Waistcoat, without Sleeves.

Mr. Ballance was play'd by an old, shabby-looking Fellow, that had more the Appearance of a Turnkey than a Justice of Peace; and so shockingly hoarse, that he could not utter a distinct Word—That violent Cold, I was inform'd, he caught by lying in the Snow all Night, about a Fortnight before for Want of Money to pay for a Bed, on his return Home from the last Town the Company had been in, about forty Miles distant; whither he had ran of an Errand, to fetch *Mrs. Hackwell* an old Fan, a Pot of Pomatum, and Half a Paper of Patches, that she had left behind her, in a Table Drawer at her Lodgings, in the said Town.

As for the Low-Characters, they were much better dress'd than play'd; a lame Stage-keeper doing one of the *Recruits*, and the Gentleman who perform'd the other (with *Bullock*) was so extremely diverted with himself, that the Audience laugh'd, to see him laugh----and that was all the Occasion they had.

THE Ladies of the Company did not come short of the Gentlemen, either in Point of Dress or Performance—*Mrs. Hackwell*, notwithstanding she was upwards of Fifty, paralytick, and one Leg shorter than the other, with a Voice as rough as a Raven, and Deportment dull as a Beetle, play'd *Sylvia*, because she was Mistress of the Company---She was dress'd in a full Suit of black Bays; her Head, Breasts, and Stomacher, stuck full of those Kind of *London Stars*, that the Country People don't see every Night, and are to be purchased for Two and Thirty Shillings a Pound, of that great Assistant to ve-sick Heroines, and easy Creditor to Royalty dress'd,

treſs'd, Mr. *Hewſon Scott*, in *Little-Britain*. A delicate lappetted Head and double Ruffles, very neatly cut in Paper, in Imitation of *Mecklin* Lace, and then plac'd between two Gauzes, which ſhe told me was her own Make and Contrivance, convinc'd me that ſhe was an ingenious Woman, though a moſt abominable Actreſs.

MADAM *Melinda* was ſlabber'd out, by a Girl of about Fourteen; whoſe Head was abundantly too big for her Body, and her Tongue in Proportion for her Mouth——That Accident occaſion'd her not only to ſpit in poor *Worthy's* Face, at every Word ſhe exchanged with him (that had been natural enough) but in every Mortal's that came within her Reach——I was two or three Times in very great Pain for Mrs. *Hackwell's* Paper-Concerns——Upon Enquiry, they told me that ſhe was the Stage-keeper's Daughter, was a Servant to the Company, in the Capacity of Dreſſer, Sweeper, &c. and was only us'd now and then as a Stop-Gap——I thought if ſhe was put to the ſame Uſe at the next Hedge, there would be no great Damage done; for ſuch a dirty-fac'd, mop-headed, low-liv'd, illiterate, poor Soul, I never ſet my Eyes on, before or ſince——She was dreſs'd in a Suit of yellow Sattin, that had been turn'd and dy'd, 'till it look'd like a Diſh-clout. It was rob'd and fac'd with Silver Tinſey, and ſpangled with greaſey Spots. To compleat the Whole, and prove her Taſte, ſhe had a dirty round-ear Cap on her Head, and a banging Bunch of Thyme, Mint, and Winter-Savory, by Way of Noſegay; which ſerv'd to answer one good End indeed, the Half hiding a ſcraggy Neck, brown as a Berry, and flat as a Pancake.

MRS. *Lucy* ſquinted, and had a bad Set of Teeth, but was the beſt Actreſs of the Whole. She play'd in her own Cloat's, and of Conſequence was but indifferently dreſs'd.

ROSE was a very unfortunate Figure for that Character, or indeed moſt others; being old and hump-back'd, with a Weazen-Face, like a Crab-Apple. I was told, ſhe was the Relique of a noted Legerdemain-Man, who had been us'd to travel to all the Fairs in
England,

England, and was related to Mrs. *Hackwell*, and on that Account the Widow had been admitted into the Company; but was good for very little—which I made no Dispute of. She had, however, this singular Merit, that from Head to Foot she had dress'd herself with an exact Propriety, that bespoke her understanding somewhat of the Matter.

THE Farce was of a Piece with the Play; I shall therefore not particularize on it, only say, That the Audience, after a great deal of Laugh, some in downright Ridicule, some in Sincerity of Heart, were dismiss'd about Eleven o'Clock,—The Company, after they had divested themselves of the necessary Appendixes of their assum'd Characters, or, in plainer *English*, were undress'd, assembled together in a large Room above Stairs; where they waited, with much impatience, the coming in of a swinging boil'd Leg of Mutton and Turnips, that *Hackwell* had bespoke as a Stock-Supper, on leaving the Town.

As soon as it was set on the Table, without the least Compliment to the Fair Sex, or any Sort of Decorum or Ceremony whatever, all Hands were at once in the Dish, making a perfect Scramble for the Victuals. I was astonish'd at the Wildness of their Behaviour, which appear'd to me more like that of *Tartars* of the *Desart*, than Subjects of *Great-Britain*.——A confus'd Gabble had been converted to a solemn Silence for some Minutes, when it was interrupted by the Entrance of the Stage-keeper; who came to inform the Gentlemen and Ladies, that the Landlord would not permit him to take down the Scenes, or pack up the least Trifle, until the Quarters were entirely clear'd.

THIS News cast a heavy Damp over their Spirits, that had been elevated on Account of a Ten Shillings Bowl of Punch, which *Hackwell* had just before order'd in-----The Cloud, however, was soon dissipated, on a Proclamation of Payment from the Manager, who forthwith issued his Mandate for a fair and just Account of the Company's Debts to be laid on the Table.

THE Landlord did not hesitate long upon the Order, all Things having been before prepar'd, in Expectation of

of it----He introduc'd his Bill with all that fawning Servility, natural to most Publicans, on a Surety of receiving their Money, and it was regarded with a Proportion of Contempt, only to be felt by great Minds; who, after having been severely treated, find themselves enabled to acquit Obligations. The mighty Charge amounted to no more than Sixteen Shillings and Three-pence. It might have been extended indeed, if the People of the House had so pleas'd; for your itinerant Gentry, on that Head, are not unlike *Pargate Hackneys*, more willing than able. After a little Cavil (*Mrs. Skin* and *Mrs. Labour* having complain'd of an Overcharge for Aniseed, and some other immaterial Articles) the Bill was discharg'd, a Receipt in full taken, and all well again.

WHILST *Hackwell* continued with us, I had somebody to discourse with; for he having been a Servitour at *Oxford*, had, with Scraps of Viands, collected some of Learning, and besides had Humour and good natural Parts.---Only one of the rest was able to hold any Conversation, except on such Topicks as fell within their own narrow Sphere of Movement.

AFTER a circling Glass or two had thaw'd their before frozen Hearts, and warm'd them to a Forgetfulness of all past, and a Contempt for all future Misery, the Reins of Order and Decency were flung loose, and then paltry Tales, low Sarcasms against each other, Oaths, Execrations, and the filthiest Obscenity, went to the Composition of the wretched Glee that animated the unthinking Group----- If I but offer'd to open my Mouth; I was certain to be sneer'd at, and render'd the Butt of malevolent Ignorance, by some ill-natur'd, impudent Remark, that carried neither Wit, Humour, Understanding, or Humanity; but, being at the Expence of Modesty, occasion'd a clamorous Laugh from the rest of the stupid Society.

THEIR affronting Behaviour, added to the contemptible Opinion I had before entertain'd of my Companions, together with an Inclination that I found myself under to sleep, engaged me to withdraw the very first Opportunity I had; and which their eager Attention to their

their own insipid Rattle, soon furnish'd me withal. Upon Application to the Landlord then (with a Shilling to back my Request) I got my Sentence of lying with one of the Players revok'd; and was usher'd by him cross a Yard, at the End of which stood a little Tenement, and rearing a Ladder against the Wall he ascended, and bade me follow him. I did so, through a square Hole, like a Trap-Door, about fifteen Feet high, into a place like a Hayloft; where was a Flock-Bed on the Ground, wherein he told me, that his Wife and himself had lain ever since the Show had been in Town; but he would spare it to me, as it was for that one Night.

I THANK'D him for his Indulgence, and told him, as I hear'd the Company would be moving very early in the Morning, I should only lay down in my Cloaths 'till Day light ----- The Truth is, I could not stomach the putting myself naked between Sheets, that convey'd, on the first Sight of them, all Manner of filthy Ideas.

As soon as the Man was gone, I flung myself cross the vile Conveniency, and courted rest in vain. A Train of melancholy Reflections on my present State, with the Recollection of my first imprudent Conduct, that had been the original Source of the Torrent of Troubles that continued to pursue and threaten'd to overwhelm me, forbad for awhile all Composure. From the Intelligence of some neighbouring Clock, I found that I had tost and tumbled about near three Hours; when Providence, that never loads it's Votaries beyond their Power to bear, apply'd the Balm of Sleep to my tear-drench'd Eyes-----For two more, I enjoy'd a quiet, undisturb'd Repose.

I WAS wak'd, about Five o'Clock, by an Accident of the same Nature with that which lost poor *Tobit* his Eyes (according to Divine History.) I had, indeed, the good Luck only to be sick from mine; which fell in larger Quantities, proportionable to the Size of the Birds. His Enemies were only Sparrows, mine were Barn-Door Fowls; whose Roosting-Place was on a Beam, directly over my Head; and I lying on my Back, with my Mouth half open, receiv'd one of their Morning Sacrifices to Nature, as plump as if the Favour had been intended

tended. Day light, that then began to peep through several Chasms of the antiquated Thatch, gave me to understand the Nature of the Present, and where I was indebted.

I AROSE and retir'd from that lamentable Apartment, by the same Means that I got thither. As I pass'd through the Yard, I met the Landlord; who told me, That he was coming to call me up, for that our People were just upon the March-----The Goods were gone, and with them the Women in a Waggon.

ALL the Men, except *Hackwell* himself, walk'd. He and his Wife rid single Horses, in order to make the best of their Way, that they might see a Stock-Dinner got ready against the Company came in, which was expected would be about One o'Clock; it being nine Miles from ***** to L-----, where we next pitched our Tents.

C H A P. XXIII.

Arrival at L-----. Manner of settling Business. A Squabble with one of the Comedians. Agreeably fix'd as to Lodging, &c. Description of the Play-Room-----and of an Accident that fell out the Night of our Opening.

BY the Time we had swallow'd three or four Pots of Hot, and taken Leave of the Landlord and his Spouse, who seem'd to be in high Spirits at our Departure, it grew towards Eight o'Clock. I singled out one *Jackson* for my particular Companion, because he seem'd the most like a Christian amongst them; and, whilst the rest of the Fraternity were bidding adieu to Ostlers, Journeymen-Butchers, the under Servants of the Squire's Family, and others, their good Friends and Allies, he and I had got a Mile and Half ahead of them; but (as we walk'd leisurely) we presently heard the half-drunk-en, vociferous Crew come hallowing after. We suffer'd them to pass us, and *Jackson*, by Reason of his Corpulency, not being able to make any great Expedition, it was near Five o'Clock before we enter'd the Inn at L-----; where we found the whole Company indulging

themselves over a roaring Fire, and a capacious Bowl, at the Stock-Charge.

AFTER we had satisfied ourselves, with some Provision that had been set by for us, we drew into the Rank, in order to attend to Business: *Hackwell* having produc'd a large Folio, distinguish'd under the Title of the Cast-Book, *viz.* a Book wherein the Plays that the Company have acted, or thereafter purposed to act, were enter'd, and the Parts in those Plays assign'd to such particular Performers.---The Tragedy of *King Charles* was first propos'd to be got up, as an Addition to the Stock; because *Hackwell* inform'd us, that he had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the Constitution of the Town, and was certain that Piece would take there.

THE Proposition pass'd *Nemine Con.* - Mr. *Hackwell* then began to settle the Parts; but a violent Dust being kick'd up, or (to speak in more general Terms) a Quarrel ensuing between Mrs. *Hackwell* and Mrs. *Skin*, concerning the Part of Lady *Fairfax*; and another, no less terrible, between Messrs. *Skin* and *Dolour*, in regard to which of them look'd the Vain best, and of Consequence most proper to personate *Oliver Cromwell*, we turn'd over a new Leaf; and *Tamerlane* (not having been done by that Company) was next thought of. But that Piece was likewise soon set aside, from there being no less than four warm Competitors for the Part of *Bajazet*, besides old Mother *Lackbitt*; who declar'd, That for twenty Years after she commenc'd Player, she had never thought any Thing else but Mens Parts, which us'd to be cramm'd upon her (being then a very elegant Figure) faster than she could turn her Hands to them; and that through all the Western Circuit (especially at *Truro*) she had been particularly famous for that very Part of *Bajazet*, and had been so caress'd for her Performance of it, by all Sorts of People, that she verily believ'd if she could eat Gold, she might have had it.----A Stoick could not have forbore to laugh at the ridiculous Gasconades of this old Harridan; who I was perswaded (from the pitiful Appearance she then made) had never been so happy as she would fain have had

had us to believe, or otherwise must have mispent her Time lamentably.

No Play being talk'd of, for the whole Course of the Night, that some Impediment or other did not prevent from being absolutely fix'd on, we found ourselves as much at a Loss in the Conclusion as at the Commencement of the Council, which, before it broke up, had well nigh prov'd fatal to me; for Mr. *Skin*, having privately relented some ludicrous Expressions that he had over-hear'd me convey by Whisper to *Jackson*, in Relation to his Mother-in-Law's Puffs, that Gentleman having married (or at least living as if married) with a Daughter of Mrs. *Lackshift's*, could not be satisfied until he had vented his Spleen, which I inadvertently furnish'd him with an Occasion for; by saying, That I thought Mr. *Jackson* the properest Figure in that Company for the Character of *Manly*, in *The Provok'd Husband*. "You think!" said *Skin* (getting up, and putting on a most formidable Face) "You think!----Who are you, you Scab?----You think!----What Right have you to think, and be d---n'd to you?----A saucy, squirting Blood of a Wh---e, come here from the Devil's A---e a Peek, and impos'd upon us for a Sharer, without being able to speak a Line, and he pretends to think already."----"Pray, Sir, said I, don't put yourself into such a Passion. I have said no Harm, that I know of; and tho' I am not very well qualified at present for the Business I am unhappily fall'n into, yet, with due Application, I hope I shall be able to render myself useful to the Company in a little Time."----"What do you mean by unhappily fall'n into, you Scoundrel?" replied *Skin* (advancing towards me) "Who do you respect on, you dirty Thief?----Take that"----and, so saying, accompanied his Words with a Blow. It fell on my Left-Eye, and struck me backwards, Chair and all, against the Door; which bursting open with the Shock, if it had not been for the Landlord's coming just at that Moment to learn the Reason of the Noise, and catching me in his Arms, I had tumbled down a whole Flight of Stairs, which were pretty steep, and, in all Probability, broke my Neck.

It was with great Difficulty that the Interposition of our own People, with that of those of the House likewise, could prevent *Hackwell* (who had, before the Racket brought him up Stairs, been engag'd with some Gentlemen that had sent for him) from revenging my Cause on *Skin*; who, tho' he had play'd the Bravo (because an over-match for me) I found was no better than a rank Coward, when oppos'd by a Man capable to cope with him.

THIS Squabble put an entire Finish to all Affairs for that Night, and each were shewn to their respective Lodgings. Mr. *Hackwell* had billeted myself, together with *Jackson* and *Rollins* (being all single Men, and People whose Behaviour he took on him to recommend) in the very House where we then were; which was the largest Inn in the Town, and situate in the Middle of the Market-Place. It was kept by one *Nicholas Lovegill*, a hearty, sanguine, grey-headed, old Widower; whose Daughter, a young Woman of about three and twenty Years of Age, was his House-keeper. We were escorted by Mr. *Lovegill* to our Apartments (three very neat little Rooms, contiguous to each other) where, having bid us good Night, he left us to our Repose.

ABOUT eight in the Morning a Maid Servant knock'd at my Door (it happening to be the first upon the Range) and told us that Breakfast was ready, which we found waiting for us in a very handsome Parlour, next the Street; all the Appurtenances of the Table in very neat Order, and the Management of them conducted, with much Propriety, by Miss *Lovegill*; who ask'd what we lik'd for Dinner? and whether we chose to dine by ourselves, or with the Family, which consisted (Market Days excepted) of no other Company than herself and Father? We fix'd on the latter, and accordingly agreed to diet and lodge at the Rate of Three and Six-pence a Week each; and we liv'd as well for that Price, as any middling Family need to live, having every a Day a fresh Joint hot, and of our own chusing, with always the Addition of a Pudding, or some other little thing in lieu of it.

ABOUT

ABOUT the fourth Day, after we had been thus contentedly settled, we open'd with a Play, call'd, *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*; and there not having been any Actors there for some Years before, it was from that Motive, I suppose, that the Place was crowded. It was a very large Room that we play'd in, generally made use of for publick Auctions, Dinners, Balls, &c. and when full, at our Prices, held upwards of Ten Pounds, which Sum we had in it that Night. On casting up the Accompts, *Hackwell* shar'd Half a Crown a-piece to us; the Remainder was kept in Hand, to be produc'd or accounted for as he thought proper, and when.

THE Opening of our Play, which, according to the Author's Intent, should have been conducted with Pleasantry and good Humour, had like to have been attended with very fatal Consequences——Unluckily, an honest Country Grazier, who (altho' he was then three Parts drunk) grudg'd us our small Portion of seeming Happiness, in Half a Pint of Wine and Water that stood on a Table before us, call'd out loudly, That he would come and partake.

THE being disturb'd thus in one of his capital Parts, together with the pitiful Appearance of the Aggressor, rais'd *Hackwell's* Spleen to such a Degree, that had he been the identical Colonel he was representing, and marching to the Field in Defence of his Country, he could not have been more in earnest than he was at that Juncture: Not satisfied with abusing the Man only, he rose, stript himself very deliberately, hung his Copper-Suit on the back of his Chair, laid his Wig on the Table, and, advancing to the Front, challeng'd the Countryman to box with him for five Pounds, to divert the Company before the Play began. His Antagonist did not seem backward in the Affair, and, I believe, had it not been for the Interposition of a noble Lord and his Lady, that came thither to furnish themselves and us with reciprocal Occasions for Laughter, the Comedy would have been converted into a Bruising-Match. In Complaisance, however, to the aforesaid Personages, to whom not only the contending Grazier

but almost the whole Audience were either Tenants, or dependent in some Shape or other, the Affair was mitigated; and, every Body reassuming their Seats, the Performance was conducted as regularly as I ever saw one by that Set, and room sufficient for three Volumes of critical Dissertations too, according to the modern Writers Method of Protraction.

C H A P. XXIV.

The Landlord's Behaviour on our first Night's Success. Business falls off. Play bespoke. Account of it. The Company are invited to Play at a Gentleman's Seat. Description of a Supper at the New-Inn. Genteel Behaviour of Mr. B——.

ABOUT Eleven o'Clock the Company were dismissed, in somewhat near the same Condition that *Messalina* is recorded to have left the *Roman Stews*, more tir'd than satisfied. *Fame*, that on such Occasions convinceth the World how well she is vers'd in the Rule of Multiplication, swell'd the Account of our House that Night to about three Times as much more as it was really able to contain; but this we could by no Means prevail on *Lovegill* to believe; who, upon our coming Home, had the Table-Cloth laid near the Kitchen-Fire, and a Parcel of poor neighbouring Blacksmiths and Husbandmen (constant Customers) were turn'd out of their Places, like so many Dogs, to make room for the Gentlemen; an Epithet that he, at that Time, distinguish'd us under, and which, had our Business continued as good as it begun, we had never been depriv'd of.

BUT the Matter contain'd in the Leaves of *Fate*, Potentates and Players, Emperors and Gypsies, Sultanas and the Camels that carry them, are under an absolute Necessity of abiding by——and Disputes are needless——A Fortnight was elaps'd, during which Time we gave out, or publish'd, a different Play to be perform'd, on each of our acting Days; but neither Curiosity or Compassion could excite them to come near us, for we tried them both Ways.

IN

IN this Dilemma, we ſcarce knew what Step to take; at length *Hackwell* waited upon a *Roman* Catholick Family, who liv'd about a Mile diſtant. What Rhetorick he made uſe of to perſwade the Lady to ſtir ſo much as ſhe afterwards did, I cannot ſay; but certain it is, ſhe not only beſpoke a Play, but took her Chariot and went round the Neighbourhood to all the Gentlemen's Seats within Four Miles of her, and, making a particular Point of ſerving us, we had a Room crowded with only People of Faſhion; of whom (by the expreſs Orders of our Benefactreſs) we took nothing leſs than a Half Crown each.

THAT Night we were again receiv'd with great Joy, by Friend *Lovegill*, who, as we had not yet come to any Account with him; had, for three or four Days paſt before this Contingency, treated us in a quite different Manner to that with which he had at firſt behav'd. We expected to ſhare very largely, from the Receipt of this Houſe; and, in Conſequence of ſuch Expectation, we promis'd to ſettle our Accounts entirely with the Landlord the *Saturday* following, this being on the *Wednesday*. He return'd us many Thanks and would fain have perſuaded me to believe, what many better Heads than his have labour'd in vain to do, both before and ſince, *viz.* That a Publican can be diſinterreſted. I muſt own, that I ſtill lean towards my firſt Prejudice; and think that however the Devil chuſe now and then to diſguiſe himſelf, there is a fixed Period when the Cloven-Foot will moſt aſſuredly make its Appearance.

How were my golden Dreams vaniſh'd the next Morning, upon finding our great Sharing to turn out no more than Seven Shillings a Man, whereas we expected at leaſt Fifteen? *Hackwell* himſelf had ſtood (as he generally did, on ſuch particular Nights) at the Door of Receipt; and he or ſhe (for this bruising Manager made no Diſtinction of Sexes) would have been knock'd down, that had ask'd him any Questions concerning the Account.

ON the *Sunday*, that we might ſave *Lovegill* and ourſelves both the Trouble of dunning, we tender'd him a Crown

each, in Part of Payment, with which he was well satisfied; and the more so, as, after a proper Excuse made for not giving him the Whole, we solemnly promis'd the Remainder on our return from the *New-Inn* at *****; a Publick-House near the Seat of B——, Esq; to which the Company had been invited to perform.

OUR Conditions were, to exhibit three Plays; for which Performances, with all incidental Charges, Mr. B—— agreed to satisfy us. *Hackwell* took all the Advantage such an Opportunity furnish'd, having large Bills stuck up at every Corner through the Streets of *****; purporting, the great Pleasure 'Squire B—— had receiv'd from the Entertainment one of our Pieces afforded, and which had induc'd that Gentleman to invite the Company to his Seat at *****; from whence, after they had perform'd three Times, they should return to the Theatre, and the *Monday* following act there the *Spanish Fryar*, &c.

THE Ladies, and such Necessaries as we had an absolute Occasion for, were dispatch'd in a light Cart, under the Inspection of our Stage-keeper; a very honest, trusty, and useful Fellow. *Hackwell* and his Wife (as usual) travell'd on Horseback, and the rest of the Company padded it, according to the Phrase.

WHEN we arriv'd at the End of our Journey (about seven Miles distant from *****) it was near Eight o'Clock. We were conducted into a large Parlour tolerably furnish'd, where was a Cloth laid; and, finding that all the Guests were then assembled, the Landlord ask'd, if we pleas'd to have the Supper brought in? To which having readily assented, a fine Shoulder of Veal stuff'd was soon set on the Table, accompanied by a large Dish of Potatoes, and another of Winter Salading.

TO the great Comfort of our Stomachs, and the wonderful Consternation of the Landlord and his Spouse (who had never seen such Doings before at the *New-Inn*) in less than fifteen Minutes the Flesh, lately so fair and beautiful to the Eye of the Beholder, was like the Habitation of the wicked vanish'd and gone.

A most

A most capacious Pewter-Dish, full of hot butter'd Apple-Pye with Walls of very hospitable Thickness, next made it's Appearance, and was forc'd also to yield to the irresistible Ravage of the Conquerors, tho' not quite so speedily demolish'd as its Companion had been. Great Quantities of Butter and Cheese were afterwards devour'd, by Way of Concoction: which, with several Gallons of Ale, contributed towards the raising a pretty considerable Score. But People, whose Appetites run away from their Reflection, never once trouble their Head about that.

As soon as the Cloth was remov'd, *Skin*, who play'd many of our principal Parts, and (though purblind and lame) was look'd on as a useful Member, gave himself all the Airs, customary with Men of Merit. In a loud and impartial Kind of Accent, he order'd the Landlord, to introduce the Tubes and Mundungus, to the End that we might consolidate the Solids. I had a Month's Mind to ask him his Meaning; but on Recollection that the same Man was near beating out my Brains but a little while before, on a more innocent Occasion, I even held my Tongue, and began to consolidate the Solids as well as the rest of them, which I found amounted to no more than smoking a Pipe of Tobacco.

WHILST we were in the Height of Mirth, of the same Sort I have heretofore spoken of, a very polite Message was sent to *Hackwell* by Mr. B——; the Purport of which was, That, if it would not be disagreeable to the Gentlemen and Ladies of the Company, he should be glad to wait on them, and chat for an Hour.

I was charm'd with the respectful Manner of the Address, a certain Sign of the great good Breeding and true Accomplishments of the Sender; but, at the same Time, I regretted the Disappointment his Expectation would meet with, in regard to the Entertainment he should find among our miserable Troop.

HACKWELL, having return'd for Answer, That the Company deem'd themselves proud of the Honour intended, in less than five Minutes afterwards that Gentle-

man was usher'd by the Landlord into the Room. He was a middle-fiz'd, well-looking Man, and his Behaviour extremely graceful and courteous.

AFTER he had saluted the Ladies and Gentlemen (as he was pleas'd to stile us) all round, talk'd some little Time with *Hackwell* concerning the Business of the ensuing Week, and, by asking every one some few indifferent Questions, convinc'd himself how short he was like to fall in his propos'd Pleasure; as likewise, that his Presence rather cast a Damp on our Mirth than encouraged it, he took a Bumper or two of Punch to our Healths, the Success of the Theatre, &c. and withdrew in the same affable Manner that he had enter'd. — Mr. B — told us however, before he quitted the Room, not to be in the least backward of following any Diversion we had an Inclination to round his Manor; and, to the Intent that we might not, he should give Orders to his Game-keeper to furnish those who chose Shooting with Fowling-Pieces, &c. and such as preferr'd Angling with Rods, and other Necessaries of every Sort.

No sooner had this Gentleman turn'd his Back than our People, who, 'till then (being unaccustom'd to such Kind of Behaviour) had been dazzled, like young Owls in the Sun-shine, and incapable of making any Return to the Civilities of Mr. B — (otherwise than by servile Grins and Scrapes) resum'd their clamorous Mirth. I wonder'd, that neither *Hackwell* or *Jackson* (who were really able to hold Conversation) behav'd, whilst Mr. B — was present, in a very little better Kind, than those who were less qualified to speak; which I could no otherwise account for, than that their Shyness proceeded from a long Disuse of better Company, than was to be found among their own Community.

THE Apartments of the *New-Inn* were very neat and clean; much better than many of our People deserv'd, for they paid very little Regard to Furniture. — *Sunday* (an irksome Day to many!) was spent by three Parts of our Company in Bed, until they were call'd down to Dinner; and as it prov'd a wet Afternoon and Evening, they were spent in Smoaking, Drinking,

ing, and a Relation of all Sorts of Ribaldry, without Reserve; the more wicked, the more applauded.

C H A P. XV.

Play the Miser. Some Discourse that pass'd between Mr. B—— and myself. Description of Mrs. B——. The whole Company handsomely entertain'd at the Summer-House of Mr. B——, and their Behaviour in return. Finish playing at the New-Inn.

AFTER they had continu'd to encrease, by extravagantly vaunting in their scandalous Reports of the most horrid Excesses of all Sorts, so long as they thought proper, the whole Company burst into a loud Laughter, at the Deception they had (as they declar'd) involv'd me in, on purpose to see how I should take it. I had already witness'd enough of their Behaviour, to judge them capable of any Thing; and therefore gave as much Credit to their Recantations, as I apprehended they deserv'd.

THERE had been two very large Parlours broke into one, by Mr. B——'s Orders, for our Accommodation; in which Room we the next Day exhibited *The Miser*, to a very numerous, though not a very polite Audience; there being present only Mr. B—— and his Lady, above the Degree of *Johns* and *Joans*, most of them Tenants to the said Gentleman.

As the Auditors had Ale and Cakes, as much as they could eat and drink, distributed amongst them, besides the Play, *Gratis*, they were highly delighted with their Night's Entertainment; and the News, before our next Representation, being well dispers'd through the adjacent Towns and Villages, we had not then near Places sufficient to contain our Visitors; many of whom, that could not get in, stay'd and lay in the Haylofts, Stables, or wherever they could, that they might be sure not to be disappointed on the *Friday*. By this Means, the Landlord turn'd a very considerable Penny; and, I dare to say (tho' we gave him a good deal

deal of Trouble) he nevertheless would have been very glad of our Company another Week.

On the *Thursday* Morning before we left the *New-Inn*, walking thro' a narrow Lane, that led to some Fields wherein I us'd to divert myself now and then in shooting Larks, I espy'd Mr. *B*—— coming towards me, on which I turn'd back, meaning to avoid him; but he (calling me by my Name) begged that he might not frighten me from my Sport. I would have pass'd him then with a Bow, but taking me familiarly by the Hand, "I am afraid," said he, "young Gentleman, you are a Truant." I replied, that I knew not what it was he meant. "Yes you do," said he, smiling—— "But however, if you cannot employ yourself better, after you have frighted the Birds a little, I should be glad to speak with you at my House." I told him, That I was not so bent on my Diversion, but that I should be very glad to accompany him at that Instant, to receive his Commands: "Nay," said he, "I have no Commands to lay on you; but I have some little Advice to offer to your Consideration, which, if I judge rightly, you stand much in need of, and I think will do you no Manner of Prejudice."

BEING come to the Back-Door of his Garden, he unlock'd it, and desired me to walk in. At some little Distance, I perceiv'd his Lady, who was employ'd in picking the Snails from some Apricot Trees, with which the Wall was lin'd. "My Dear," said Mr. *B*——, "I luckily met with Mr. *Du Pleffis* alone, and have brought him with me to answer for himself, in regard to our Suspicions concerning him." I saluted the Lady with all that Deference I had always been taught due to Superiors, and especially those of distinguish'd Rank; and she returned it in an affable Manner, suitable to her Breeding, which had been of the best.

MRS. *B*—— was the Daughter of a Knight, well known to the Mercantile Part of the Town, as an opulent and fair Trader; and to that of St. *James's*, as a polite and elegant Gentleman. With her Mother's Beauty, this Lady enjoy'd all that Portion of her Father's

Father's Understanding necessary to her Sex, and more than one in a Million of them can boast. Without descending to minute Particulars, Mrs. B—— had all Qualifications, mental and personal, proper for Ornament, or worthy Imitation.

To this Couple, I at that Time (as they were solicitous for it) gave a brief Abstract of my History, with which they were well diverted; and, at the Close, advis'd me by all Means to leave the Crew I was at present amongst, and make any Concession to my Friends they thought proper to demand from me, rather than continue in so abandon'd a Situation. I promis'd them that I would do so, and they seem'd entirely pleas'd with a Resolution, which, though I car'd not to undeceive them concerning, I knew it was impossible for me to practise.

At parting, Mr. B—— desir'd me to acquaint the Company in general, that adjoining to a certain Summer-house of his, about Half a Mile distant, there was a very fine Pond, excellently well stor'd with Carp and Tench, where he would have them one and all go angle; that he would send them the Key of the House, where the Women would find all proper Utensils for the dressing of what they took, his Lady and himself often chusing to dine there on the same Occasion.

I REPORTED the Affair, as commission'd; which was readily embrac'd, and all Hands repair'd to the Spot immediately. There we found a Servant waiting with the Key of the Summer-house, where were deposited all Sorts of Tackle and Baits. One of the Women soon made a Fire, and the Men went to their Sport. In less than an Hour, there were more Carp, Roach, Perch, &c. catch'd than we could fairly tell what to do with.

AFTER we had been angling about an Hour and a Half (the Women gutting and cleaning the Fish, as they were taken) we perceiv'd a couple of Men-Servants to enter the Gate of the Enclosure, each of them bearing a cover'd Dish; with which having furnish'd a Table that stood in the Summer-house, we were by one
of

of them desir'd to walk in: Who told us, that his Master, well knowing the uncertainty of Fishing, had order'd them to bring us a bit of Beef and Sallad, begg'd that we would enjoy ourselves, and be assur'd that we were entirely welcome. Whilst he was thus delivering his Message, came a third carrying a Hamper, as much as he could well stand under, fill'd with Small Beer, Ale, Bread, a Bottle of Brandy, and another of Rum; with Sugar, Lemons, &c. &c.

WE threw our Fishing-Tackle aside upon this goodly Summons, and retir'd into the House; where, the Servants having shewn us to help ourselves to all we had Occasion for, return'd back, and we immediately fell on board as delicate a Surloin of roast Beef, as ever found Employment for Cutlery-ware. Most of the Ladies, as well as Gentlemen chusing a Slug after Dinner, by Way of digestive, we nearly emptied the Bottle of Brandy in dry Drams, and the Rum we made into Punch; over which we were very merry, 'till an unlucky Accident happen'd, that, for some little Time, struck a Damp to our Spirits, occasion'd by *Skin's* breaking a very fine China-Bowl, in reaching his hand hastily cross the Table, in order to give his Wife a Slap o'the Face, for shewing *Rollins* a Bruise on the Breast, that he had given her a Day or two before—However, the Butler, coming in to enquire if we wanted any Thing, very kindly assur'd us, that Mr. B—— should not be made acquainted with this Misfortune until after we were gone, and that then he would take it upon himself.

SKIN was in high Raptures at this Declaration, and to make the Butler some Amends for his Goodness, took an Opportunity to steal four of the best Lines he could find upon any of the Reels; which I had never known, but for his bragging of his great Address in that Matter, after our Return to *****.

THERE was an Article besides this which happen'd there, that gave me great Compunction. Mr. B—— had thrown into the Pond lately mentioned five dozen Brace of small Tench, in order to stock the Pond. These he warn'd us concerning, when he first gave us Liberty,

Liberty-to angle ; and earnestly requested, that if any such came to the Hook, we would throw them in again, which we promis'd and perform'd. The Night before we quitted the *New-Inn*, there being a very fine Moon, a Project came into *Skin's* Head to rob Mr. *B*—'s Pond, and then set off for *****, without returning to join the Company, communicating his Intention only to his Wife ; and telling her what to say to *Hackwell*, if he should make any Words on his being mis'd in the Morning. The Scheme succeeded, for by fair Angling, in about two Hours, he caught as much Fish as a large Net would hold, that he took with him for the Purpose ; among the rest were upwards of two dozen of the Fry just spoke of, which he was base enough to bring off with him. This Story he would frequently boast of, as a Piece of Ingenuity that deserv'd Notice—And so it did, doubtless.

On the Morning of our Departure for *****, Mr. *B*——sent for *Hackwell*, and gave him (as he said) for the Company's Performances, Six Guineas ; but from that Gentleman's Behaviour in other Points, we had substantial Reasons to imagine the Sum was abundantly more : However, no one caring to make a general Business particular, this Fraud was suffer'd to sink peaceably, among many others that we could by no Means tell how to rid ourselves of.

Our of the above Money, *Hackwell* thought proper to share Six Shillings and Six-pence each, which, he said, was more than he ought to do, in regard to his Stock-Debt which was a monstrous heavy one : “ And yet,” continued he, “ in Consideration of the very bad Business we have had at *****, I am contented to enhance it, by defraying every one's private Scores at this House, and adding them thereto.” “ This Piece of Mock Generosity much rais'd the before drooping Visages of the thoughtless Herd. Future Contingencies (according to Custom) were made give Way to present Sensualities, and *Hackwell's* Praises were trumpeted for the honestest, best natur'd Manager that ever travell'd the Country.

THE Joy occasion'd to the Company from *Hackwell's* Offer, receiv'd a fresh Augmentation on the Landlord's being call'd to settle his Accounts ; who said, That Mr. *B*——had thoroughly satisfied him, and he had no Manner of Demand upon any Individual of the Company ; but hop'd they would give him Leave to treat them with a favourite Morning's Draught of his, known by the Name of Old Man's Milk, and compos'd of Brandy, Egg, Water, and Sugar.

C H A P. XXVI.

*An Accident retards Part of the Company some time, in their Journey from the New-Inn. That settled, they return to ***** Bad Success there. Lovegill's Behaviour.*

WHILST we were partaking the Landlord's Favour, his Wife came two or three Times, and whisper'd somewhat in his Ear ; at which he seem'd offended, and desir'd her to hold her Tongue : But she persisting to mutter between her Teeth, he peremptorily bade her get out of the Room, or he would kick her out. This rais'd the good Woman's Choler to a great Pitch ; who then declar'd, She wou'dn't hold her Tongue, and see herself impos'd upon and robbed by ere a Parcel of mumping Toads in the World ; with their frippery Dabs, and sh——ten-come-sh——te Stuff at their Tails.

WE were all well acquainted with her parsimonious Disposition, and therefore look'd on the Affair no otherwise, than that she spoke in Reference to the Liquor we were then drinking, from having over-heard her Husband's Proposal of treating us with it. *Hackwell* desir'd her not to put herself in a Passion for such a Trifle, since he would rather pay the Price of ten Bowls, than be the Cause of the least Uneasiness between Man and Wife. " Fine talking, Mr. *Hackwell*," said she ; " prithee don't tell me of your ten Bowls, " you had better keep your Money against you want it, " and that won't be very long, I suppose——You'll
" have

“ have better Luck than honefter Folks, if you find
 “ such a Fool as 'Squire *B*——in every Country.” Ho-
 “ nefter Folks, Madam !” replied *Hackwell*——I don't
 “ understand you ! ——“ Yes, honefter Folks,” re-
 turn'd she ; “ I shan't make my *A*—— my Mouth——
 “ I am sure, I am two good old-fashion'd Table-Spoons
 “ the worfe for some of your Shabrags ; besides a
 “ Counterpane, worth Five-and - Twenty Shillings,
 “ that your fine flatternly Minx, Miss *Merrypin*, burnt
 “ for me with studying (as you call it) a Bed. The
 “ D——l study her Eyes out.——Then there's the
 “ Sheets, that *Slink* and his Wife lay in ; why they
 “ won't come clean in less than six Washings, if ever
 “ they do, they are so plaguily grim'd with their curs'd
 “ Stuff——Besides, they have so spit and spawl'd all
 “ over the Wainscot, that there is no such Thing as
 “ putting any Christian into the Room, 'till it be fresh
 “ painted——And yet I mustn't speak, for all this !——
 “ But I'll let you know, *Dick Hubbard*” (so was the
 Landlord call'd) “ that I will speak, tho' ; and have Just-
 “ ice done me too, if I follow *Hackwell* and his *Waga-*
 “ *bons* to the Devil's A——e a Peak, and a Peak be-
 “ yond.”

“ Be but a little calm, my good Mrs. *Hubbard*,” re-
 plied *Hackwell*, taking her by the Hand, “ and I'll talk
 “ with you.——As to the Damages sustain'd by Miss
 “ *Merrypin*'s Accident, and Mr. and Mrs. *Slink*'s Siut-
 “ tery, there is a Guinea, which I hope you will think
 “ so far a sufficient Recompence”——At this the Land-
 lady clear'd up a little, and he proceeded——“ Now,
 “ as to the Affair of the Spoons, I really am at a Loss
 “ what to say.——I declare I have no Reason to sus-
 “ pect any of my Company could be guilty of such a
 “ Meanness, because they have undergone very severe
 “ Trials, and notwithstanding have always quitted eve-
 “ ry Place they have been in with the strictest Honour
 “ and Decorum: Nevertheless, all that can, shall be done,
 “ for your Satisfaction, *viz.* The present Members
 “ will readily submit to be closely search'd. We will
 “ afterwards keep the Matter as secret as possible, and
 “ the Moment I get to *****, all the Boxes, Parcels,
 “ and

“ and Persons of those who went away with the Cart
 “ this Morning, shall be serv'd the same; and in Case
 “ we may not be able, by such Expedients, either to
 “ detect the Person culpable, or get some Intelligence
 “ of the Spoons, I myself will pay you the full Value
 “ for them: But let me beg that you say not a Syllable
 “ more about them, until you hear farther from me.”

To this Proposal, Mrs. *Hubbard* readily agreed; when, in the Midst of the Ceremony, one of the Servants, whom the Master had order'd to look thoroughly all over the House, came in with the Spoons in her Hand; which, she said, she had found in the Dust-Hole—— This Intelligence brought with it much Satisfaction.

UPON our going off, the Wench took an Opportunity to tell *Hackwell*, that she saw old *Wilkinson* draw them out of his Pocket, and put them there; and that though she had determin'd to keep the Secret from every Body else, yet thought it necessary to inform him of it, lest the Company might hereafter, by the Means of such a Man's Slight of Hand, fall into Premunires, not easy to disentangle themselves from. *Hackwell* gave the Girl Half a Crown for her friendly Behaviour; and, calling for another Bowl of old Man's Milk, we drank to the Health and Prosperity of B——, Esq; to the Success of the *New-Inn*, the Theatre, &c. and parted as good Friends as we met.

WHEN we came to ***** *Hackwell* mention'd the Affair of the Spoons to *Wilkinson*, who could by no Means deny the Fact; and giving him (as usual) a Month's Warning to provide himself, discharg'd him the Company.

IN Spite of those ostentatious Bills before-mention'd to have been stuck up, as well as plentifully distributed at our Departure from our Theatre, we were fully convinc'd that all the Merit we could muster amongst us was not a Match for the Strength of that ill Fate that oppos'd it.—Play after Play was given out to no Manner of Purpose, and old *Lorvegill* began to growl again most wretchedly.—No Servant now knock'd at our Door in the Morning, and, with gentle Accent pronounc'd

pronounc'd Miss *Nancy's* Summons to the Tea-Table—
No Consultation now was held on what might be most agreeable to our Palates, nor Rusticks driven from the Fire for our better Accommodation—Those golden Days were done ; and, in lieu of that once kind Usage, a hoarse Voice was now heard to bellow out, about Nine o'Clock, " What do them Fellows design to lie
" stinking a Bed all Day, rotting the Sheets ?—Pri-
" thee don't think of waiting upon their A——es—
" I warrant we can find somewhat else to do—Go to
" Breakfast, Wench, go to Breakfast—If they want
" any Victuals when they come down, set them out the
" *Suffolk* Cheese." —" Father, what must we have
" for Dinner to Day ? Nothing but the Leg of Beef ?"
" — Nothing but the Leg of Beef ! why what the
" D——l would you have ?"—But the Gentlemen,
" Father"—" The Gentlemen !—The Beggars !—
" The Rogues !—Who the D——l made them Gen-
" tlemen !—I say Gentlemen, indeed !—What, to
" run about the Country, with their Sticks and Rags,
" and a Parcel of Lies and Nonsense, to pick the Mo-
" ney out of poor Peoples Pockets—O Blood ! if
" their dainty Maws can't digest good Leg of Beef, let
" them starve and be d——n'd an they will, for what
" I care."

We were under a Necessity of hearing all this, and a great deal more to the same Purpose, without taking the least Notice. It was after enduring for about a Fortnight, in such disagreeable Manner, that *Lovegill* came into my Chamber one Morning, and accosted me in a much milder Manner than I expected ; but the Matter of his Dialogue was as rough, as any Gentleman would desire to hear—He wish'd, he said, that myself and my Companions wou'd think of Eating somewhere else than at his House, for he neither wou'd nor cou'd maintain us any longer ; that he should expect to be paid for what we had already had, and that very soon too, or he should be forc'd to take some Course that would not prove very agreeable to us ; and will'd me to let *Rollins* and *Jackson* know as much, for he was determin'd that he would have his own. He left me

me to chew on that bitter Close, but my Stomach could not digest it.

I IMMEDIATELY, on his Departure, rose, dress'd myself, and went into *Jackson's* Room, whom I acquainted with all that had pass'd, and afterwards did the same by *Rollins*. We consulted on Ways and Means to raise a little Money, but could think of none so apt to answer our Purpose as the disclosing our Necessity to *Hackwell*, and borrowing some from him. We accordingly went to his Lodgings together. After hearing the Relation of our Case, he shook his Head; told us, He was extremely sorry Things were reduc'd to so low an Ebb; that, for his Part, he had never known the Business so bad in his Life before; that he was resolv'd, if it did not alter, he would, after giving out a Play or two more, knock down the Scenes and get away; that he had already taken another Town—"I am heartily glad to hear it," replied *Jackson*; "for I am sure we have all Reason enough to be sick of this damn'd Place: But, however, this is not to the immediate Purpose. You must let us have a Trifle of Cole, for we are quite a Ground." "Upon my Soul," answer'd *Hackwell*, "and so am I—I never was so put to it for Money, since I knew what Money was; but however, there is a Shilling each, and faith 'tis as much as I can spare—If I have above one Half-Crown left, I have a Thousand Pounds."

WE gave as much Credit to that Part of the Story as we thought proper; and, pocketing the small Modicum, faunter'd about the Town 'till towards Dinner-Time, and then purchasing a Pound and Half of Mutton Chops, carried them Home and had them dress'd. Having wash'd down the melancholy Meal with a Couple of Pints of Ale, and paid our Reckoning, we again walk'd forth; not exchanging, in all the Time, one Word with our Landlord, on purpose to let him understand that we were disgusted at his Treatment——But our Scorn was lost upon the Brute, since he took not the least Notice of our Resentment.

C H A P. XXVII.

*Distresses at ***** increas'd. A Tale. Stranger arrives — His Business.*

TH E extream Necessity we found ourselves drove to before we left ***** , compell'd us to Shifts and Tricks, which though I utterly abhor'd the Practice of, there was no eating without ; and every one must be sensible, that the Calls of Nature are too powerful to contend against.

OUR Cook-Maid, *Molly* (who frequently slid a good Hunch of Bread and Meat into my Hand as I went up Stairs to Bed, underneath which I us'd sometimes to find stowed a Bottle of Strong Beer) whether on a Suspicion of her friendly Offices done to me, or a Fault of some other Nature, I know not, was turn'd off one Day whilst we were Abroad, and an old, ugly, crabbed Piece of Goods, a distant Relation of *Lovegill's*, taken in her Stead ; One, whose Heart was incapable of tender Sensations, and void of Compassion as a Bailiff's-Follower to a poverty-struck Prisoner, or a purse-proud, ignorant Bookfeller to his dependent Garrettee — This Creature gave away more Curses than Crufts, and was a living Abstract of all Vices.

By cruel Fortune thus robb'd of a kind Supporter, and with me my Companions *Rollins* and *Jackson*, who always shar'd of what Providence allotted me, we found ourselves involv'd in the lowest Sink of Misery. Displaying those Ensigns of Melancholy, that People with good Stomachs, out of all Employment, may be suppos'd to carry, we one Day call'd at *Slink's* Lodging, whom we knew to be a Fellow that would not want Provision of some Kind or other, if Poaching, Begging, or Stealing could procure it to him ; and whose Company and Measures we ever shun'd, until downright Starving star'd us in the Face, and compell'd us into both.

ALTHO' it was then near Noon, we found him and his Wife in Bed. She was mending an old Pair of Breeches, and suckling, as well as she could at the same Time,

Time, the youngest of four Children; whilst the other three were fighting, half naked, about a new Roll sopp'd in Gin, that had been somewhat (as they thought) too partially divided.—Our Hero himself, with great Attention, was perusing *Pills to purge Melancholy*; the Writer of which he recommended, next to *Stephen D—*, as an Author of the greatest Fund of ready Wit that ever he had dipt into.

HAVING desir'd us to sit down, which (there being a Deficiency of Chairs) we were oblig'd to do on the Side of the Bed, we open'd our present Case, as well as the sordid ill Nature of *Hackwell*, who had refus'd the lending us so small a Matter as Six-pence each. “He is a d—n'd worthless Scoundrel, by G—d,” replied *Slink*. “He us'd me, the other Day, just in the same Manner; tho' the Dog knows that, if I was but to hold up my little Finger, I cou'd get all his People from him. I have three or four Times had a strong Inclination to leave him as bare as a Bird's A—e, and set up a Common-Wealth; and, by G—d, I'll do it one Day or other, when he but little thinks of it.—*Poll*, do you push in for a Dinner with your Landlady—You know you are always welcome—and these Gentlemen and I will fetch a Walk, and consider what's to be done with this Scab of a Fellow.”

WHILST we were at *Slink's* Lodging, one *Tom Few-clatbs*, an old Man that had been sent for from another Company to supply the Place of *Wilkinson*, came in; and, when *Slink* was dress'd (which was pretty speedily, as his Wardrobe was not over-stock'd, nor himself over curious) we all sallied forth together. Upon an Examination of the Strength of each other's Finances, we found that all Stocks added together would not produce a Doit more than Two-pence Halfpenny—A slender Capital!—However, Providence came to the Assistance of her Children in a most timely Minute, by conducting us to a little, lone Publick-House, far distant from any Town or Village, and whose only Keeper at that Time was a poor old Creature, that could scarce hobble through Age, and it's incidental Infirmities.

FINDING

FINDING how Matters stood, we call'd boldly for a Quart of Ale; and farther encourag'd by the Landlady's Account of her Husband, which we took care to sift from her, and whom she said was at his daily Labour of Hedging and Ditching near two Miles off, and from which he never return'd 'till Six in the Evening, when the Jug was out, we order'd it to be replenish'd. The good old Woman advising us at the same Time to bite a Bit before we drank, set a large Rye-loaf upon the Table; the Complexion of which was as black as the Chimney-back, but it's Flavour equal to any Thing that I ever tasted in my Life, or at least the Keeness of my Appetite induc'd me to think so at that Time.

CUSTOM and Necessity had together inur'd me to the licentious Practices of my Fellow-Libertines so far, that I no longer bore that reserv'd Awe, and Regard for Decency and Morality, that I had brought with me to ***** I now began to ridicule all serious Reflections, and endeavour'd to render myself worthy their Esteem, by becoming as worthless as they were— In order to strengthen and confirm myself therefore in their good Opinions, whilst the old Woman was gone into her Cellar to draw a fresh Pitcher, I took an Opportunity of peering round the Hut, to see if there were any Thing I could make an Advantage of; when, espying in the Chimney the Remains of the honest Couple's Winter-Store, *viz.* about Half a Flich of Bacon, I drew forth my Pocket-Knife, and, having cut off a good handsome Slice of above Half a Pound, I handed it round to my Comrades, who all follow'd my Example. We had before that stock'd ourselves with a Lunch of Bread each, and of Consequence were now well provided for a March.

WE had nothing left to consider, but to secure the Enemy from a too hasty Pursuit; and that we effected, by tying the Latch of the Cellar-Door round a Nail, that happen'd to be near it. We then made it fast with two double Knots, and how the poor old Soul manag'd to set herself at Liberty, I am ignorant; for the Instant
we

we had finish'd the Jobb, we scour'd off, without venturing to make the least Stop, until we had measur'd two Miles cross the Country. At length, when we conceited ourselves beyond the Reach of Discovery, we sat down on a Stile; and, without the least Remorse, lugg'd out the Provender, eat what we cou'd, raw as it was, and carried the rest Home with us, laughing heartily by the Way at the simple Credulity of the Woman, whom we had thus plunder'd.

WHEN we came to *Slink's* Lodging, we clubb'd the Remainder of the Bacon, and had it boil'd with a large Cabbage, that we bought for a Penny. This Gentleman and his Lady having still some little Credit left with their Landlord (a Chandler) we had Small-Beer sufficient upon Tick; which, with Three-halfpenny-worth of Gin, serv'd to conclude the Repast, and made us as happy, for the present Moment, as were formerly the Princes themselves, of whom we were now and then the awkward Representatives.

THE next Morning I was given to understand by *Lovegill*, that a Person had been twice to enquire for me, whilst I was Abroad the Day before, but wou'd leave neither his Name or Business; only that he wou'd be glad, as soon as I came Home (if in reasonable Time) that I wou'd call at his Inn, and ask for the Gentleman that came thither that Day from *H---*, otherwise desir'd my Company to Breakfast with him in the Morning.

I cou'd not, by any Means, devise whom it shou'd be that had left this Message; but however, in Compliance with it, I went the next Day to the *White-Hart*, where, upon following my Direction, I was introduc'd to the Company of a very well-looking, elderly Man, in a riding Dress; who, accosting me in a genteel Manner, told me, That although he was himself an entire Stranger to me, yet he had heard that I promis'd very well in the Business I had undertaken; that he was the Manager of a Company at *H---*, from which Place they were then upon the Removal to *N---*; that he wanted only one Sharer, such as myself, to compleat his Number, by supplying a Vacancy lately

lately made, and that was the Business that had brought him to enquire for me.

I TOLD him, That I was very ready to embrace his Offer, for where-ever I went I could not possibly be worse off than I had been with *Hackwell*; and thereupon I gave him a full Account of the Posture our Affairs then stood in, and in what Manner they had been hitherto conducted: At which, lifting up his Hands and Eyes, and shaking his Head, he said, I had indeed Reason to be dissatisfied——It was a melancholy Relation——And such Doings, that, he bless'd God, he never had been us'd to.

C H A P. XXVIII.

Quit Hackwell's Company, and remove to that of Plackstone's. Set out for London on an advantageous Prospect. Disappointed in it. Return again to the Stage. Join one Diaper's Company at M——. A Sketch of the Performers, and of Diaper in particular.

I LIK'D the Appearance and open Behaviour of Mr. *Plackstone* (so was the Person call'd, of whom we made mention in the preceding Chapter) so well, that I was determin'd to join his Company at all Events; and, accordingly, agreed to set out with him the next Morning. In the mean Time, I went to *Hackwell's* Lodging, in order to acquaint him with the Affair; where I found the whole Body of our People assembled, to settle a Catalogue of Plays, to be presented to a certain Nobleman of that Neighbourhood, just come from *London*: And the Scheme propos'd was, by representing the extrem Necessity of their Case, to endeavour to prevail upon the said Nobleman to espouse their Interest, in the bespeaking two or three Nights Performances; and that the total Receipts, amounting from such Plays, should be made use of to clear the Debts of the Company, and put them in a Condition to leave the Town with Reputation.

I APPROV'D their Sentiments, in Regard to the above Plan; but told them withal, that I was sorry I should not be able to be a Witness of the Success of it, since

I had given my Word to quit them the next Morning, and I could not in Honour revoke the Promise. At this Declaration of mine, they were all amaz'd, and express'd an adequate Share of Sorrow with Surprise. *Hackwell* indeed storm'd loudly; and, in Terms not over and above elegant, charg'd me with an Act of Villainy, in quitting him without giving the necessary Warning usual in such Cases. To this Accusation, I replied, That I apprehended the Consequence of my Stay or Going would make but trifling Odds; and I was very well assur'd that he himself could be of no other Opinion, since he had refus'd to purchase my Continuance at so trifling a Rate, as the Loan of Six-pence, when he knew that I absolutely stood in Need of a Meal.——That I thought a Man, capable of behaving so barbarously to a Fellow-Creature, ought not to expect the least Degree of Indulgence from any Body, more especially from the injur'd Person.

Thus we parted, with great Warmth on both Sides; when, taking my Comrades, *Jackson*, *Rollins*, and *Slink* Home with me, I treated them with a Bottle of Wine; having receiv'd a Crown of *Plackstone*, by Way of Earnest. I then ask'd my Landlord, *Lovegill*, what there was due to him from me? and found it amount to One Pound Three Shillings and Six-pence; upon which I brought him down my Box, unlock'd it before him, and demanded, if he would rest satisfied with the Contents, until such Time as I could remit him the Money from N——, whither we were going? To which he replied, with all his Heart—— and took it into his Custody.

BEFORE we parted, I told my Comrades how I came by my Money; for I perceiv'd them to be somewhat astonish'd, on my flinging down Two Shillings for the Wine. I gave amongst them Two of the remaining Three, and repair'd to my Appointment with *Plackstone*, who had engaged me to dine with him. I promis'd my old Companions, however, to give them the Meeting at *Lovegill*'s about Five; and to bring my new Master with me, if I could prevail on him.

I took an Opportunity, after Dinner, to let *Plackstone* know in what Manner I had dispos'd of the Crown

Crown I had from him, and begg'd him to let me have Sixteen Shillings more, and I would then give him my Note for a Guinea; which Request he complied with, without the least Hesitation. His Readiness to oblige me prejudic'd me much in his Favour: and, to say the Truth, he never alter behav'd so, as to forfeit my good Opinion.

HAVING hir'd a Horse for myself over Night, of my Landlord, *Love, ill*; the next Morning (after taking Leave of my Friends *Rollins* and *Jackson*, and wishing them better Fortune than I had yet been a Witness of) I, in Company with *Plackstone*, set out for N—, and arriv'd there about Seven in the Evening. As soon as we had seen our Horses taken Care of, we went to the Playhouse; where I receiv'd the Compliments of the Company, on my coming to join them. They were then playing the Comedy of *Tunbridge Walks*, in which they were extremely perfect; and, to do them the Justice they deserv'd, acted it much better than I had ever seen any Piece perform'd by the Company I had made the Exchange from.

AFTER having perform'd amongst these People about nine Months, with much more Ease and Satisfaction than I had (from my first Sample) imagin'd it possible to meet with in such Society, I was encourag'd to return to *London*; on a Prospect of obtaining a Place in one of the Publick-Offices, through the Interest of a young Nobleman, with whom I had the Honour to receive some Part of my Education.

THE first Time I paid my Respects to him, he most generously promis'd to establish me very suddenly; and, in the mean while, furnish'd me with Ten Guineas for my Pocket-Expences. I continually attended the Levee of the said Nobleman for near eight Months afterwards, in daily Expectation of having his Promises fulfill'd in my Favour, but never could meet with a proper Opportunity of speaking to him more; and, whether to the Account of some Affairs of his Lordship's own, that fell out about that Time very unhappily; or to the little Regard that I paid to an insolent French Valet de Chambre, who was his Fac-Potum, I

am to attribute the Cause of my being so neglected, I cannot absolutely determine.

FINDING my Hopes from that Quarter frustrated, however, beyond all Recovery, and my Continuance in Town, of Consequence, but meer Loss of Time, I once more engag'd in the Service of the *Muses*, under a Manager, whose Name was *Diaper*. His Company, at the Time I join'd them, was playing at *M——*, distant about a Hundred and twenty Miles from *London*.

ON my Arrival at that Town, I enquir'd, at the Inn where I was set down, some Account of *Diaper*; and was inform'd, by the Landlord, That he was a very civil Gentleman; that he us'd his House constantly, and had not been gone from thence a great while. I begg'd him to let one of his Servants conduct me to the Theatre. He replied, That himself and Wife were just going thither, and should be glad of my Company.

I ACCEPTED his Offer, and, when we came to the Barn-Door (then occupied as a Playhouse) a weazen-face, pert Youth, whom, by his Dress, I apprehended was to perform the Part of *Tom* (*Steel's Conscious Lovers* being the Piece for the Night) presented himself to take our Money; but, on my demanding to speak with Mr. *Diaper*, he requested to know, if I was not the Gentleman expected for some Time past to join the Company from *London*? To which having answered in the Affirmative; he told me, That Mr. *Diaper* was not at that Juncture in the Way, but would be there presently again, because he was concern'd in the Performance: In the mean Time he desir'd me to walk into the Pit—which I did.

THE Scene was then going on between *Bevil* and *Myrtle*, in the fourth Act; and, had I not been well acquainted with the Play, I should have been at a Loss to know what the Gentlemen had been about.—The deliberate, cool, sententious *Bevil*, roaring like a Fellow that shews wild Beasts in Holiday Times; and rowling from one Side of the Stage to the other, like a Porpoise against rough Weather.—The genteel, easy *Myrtle*, was as ungainly as a Plough-Boy; threescore Years old

old, and so extremely purblind, that every now and then he mistook one of the Figures, that help'd to compose the Side-Wings, for his Friend *Bevil*, and address'd it as such.

TOM (of whom I just now spoke) had not been able to spare so much Time from Marbles and Chuck-Farthing, as to get the Words of his Part into his Head; and, of Consequence, made a most blundering Piece of Work on't.

OLD Cimberton, whenever his Asthma would give him leave, prov'd that he understood his Author well, and the Science of Acting.

SIR John Bevil was an unfortunate broken-mouth'd Gentleman, who had many Years out-liv'd plain Speaking; and, if you was to form your Judgment by what he should pronounce, a Man might full as well conceit himself at a *Dutch* Play as an *English* one.

MASTER Humphry was represented by a young Woman, dress'd in Men's Cloaths; whose squawling Pipe, pecking Viſage and odd Gesture, furnish'd but a very indifferent Representation of that downright, plodding, honest Servant.

BUT the very Tip-top of the Tree was my new Master himself, in the Character of *Sealand*; I mean in regard to his Dress and Manner, for his Person was far from despicable. He wore a *Point d'Espagne* lac'd Hat, with a blue Feather, badly put in; a *Ramilie*-Wig, a black Velvet Stock enrich'd with *Bristol* Stones, a full-trimmed Suit of Silver-lac'd Cloaths (that had been much fitter for Young *Bevil*) and a Pair of scarlet Silk Stockings roll'd. His Speech and Behaviour were of the right itinerant Rhodomontade-Stamp, and would have done better for *Alexander* than *Sealand*.

INDIANA was represented by one Mrs. *Ribspare*; a Person, whom, if she had been timely and properly cherish'd, might have prov'd an Ornament, that neither of the Royal Theatres need have thought a Disgrace to it. Her Figure was tall, strait, and easy. She had fine Eyes, a good Set of Teeth, and regular Features—

over which real Distress was so strongly depicted, that all the saint Spirits she could possibly muster were not sufficient to mask the real Gloom that sat upon her Heart.—In Regard to the other Ladies, lest I should say too much, I will, at present, say nothing at all.

THE Curtain drop'd, I step'd behind the Scenes to speak with *Diaper*; who gave me my Welcome to *M——*, in the same barbarous Accent and Gesture that he had been murdering his Character withal. He insisted upon my supping with him at his Apartment, which I accordingly did.—And the Prejudice I had conceiv'd against this Man wore off by Degrees, in Proportion to the Pleasure receiv'd from his Conversation, which was very far from disagreeable.

D I A P E R was a distant Branch of a good Family; who, designing him for the Navy, as they had Interest at the Board for his Promotion, put him early under the Care of a very experienc'd Commander, with whom he serv'd two Years a Volunteer; during which Time he was instructed in every Thing proper for a Person to know, intended for the Maritime Service. He was afterwards made Midshipman, when, (unhappily for him) the Ship was station'd at *Plymouth*. Some Strolling Players being then in the Town, and he falling accidentally into their Company, became so enamour'd of the Profession itself, and the Ease, Mirth, and Jollity that he conceived the Professors to be in the perpetual Enjoyment of; and, at the same Time, weighing the Hazards, as well as Fatigues of that Kind of Life wherein he was plac'd, and having neither Father or Mother alive, he resolv'd to give his Friends the Slip, and to put himself under the Direction of his Senses, those too general Guardians: And under their Management it was, that he privately convey'd his Effects on Shore, and remov'd to the next Town the Players had taken; where, having request'd Admission into the Company, he was with a general Approbation receiv'd by them; who, overjoy'd at the Opportunity of fleecing such a Lamb, very expeditiously left him without a Drachm of Wool to his Back.

AFTER his having, in this abrupt Manner, deserted

ed his Friends, the next Contingency (and a very natural one) was their Desertion of him.—In a very little Time after the Commencement of his Peregrination, finding himself to be severely pinch'd, and no one so ready to relieve him as he had been to relieve others, he applied to his Relations for Forgiveness and Entertainment, but all in vain. Many fruitless Sollicitations follow'd the Heels of each other, till at last, wearied with disdainful and cold Returns, he gave over all other Pursuits, than that he had just undertaken, and (as the common Phrase is) was oblig'd to compose himself, as quietly as he could, in the Bed of his own preparing.

C H A P. XXIX.

Description of Diaper continued, and other whimsical Matters relating to the Company.

AFTER between seven and eight Years had roll'd away in a most forlorn, comfortless, and half-starv'd Condition, Fortune seem'd to forget her Inveteracy towards *Diaper*, and to shew him a smiling Countenance. By the Death of a near Kinsman, a Legacy of upwards of Two Hundred Pounds (which could not be kept from him) enabled him to assume the Reins of Management, an Exaltation he had long thirsted after. He open'd his Plan, by tempting such of his then Fellow-Subjects, as he deem'd fit for his Purpose, to a Revolt; which when he had effected, he furnish'd them with what Money he thought proper, commission'd them to raise such Auxiliaries as they should judge necessary on their March, and appointed them to meet him a Month afterwards at C——, the Town he was born in; and where, having much Acquaintance, he did not doubt sufficient Business. Accordingly, after having purchas'd a Set of new Scenes and Cloaths at *London*, he join'd his Forces; and from that Time to the Instant I am now treating of, he assur'd me, that he had never known the Want of a Hundred or Two.

DIAPER and I parted about Eleven; and, in the Morning, a Waiter came to my Room, to tell me

that he waited Breakfast. I immediately rose, and was conducted by him to one of the genteelst Houses in the Place (a Mercer's, where *Diaper* lodg'd.) I found my new Master dress'd more like a Nobleman, than a petty Manager of a Handful of Strolling-Players. He had on a very fine Holland Night-Cap, frill'd round the Borders, and tied with a black Ribband, a green Damask Banyan with Silver Frogs, and a crimson Sattin Waistcoat richly lac'd with Silver, crimson Velvet Breeches with Silver Garters, white Silk Stockings, and red *Morocco* Slippers.

THE Tea-Equipage, which was very elegant, together with a large Silver Tankard, a Ladle, and a Dozen of Spoons, he took particular Pains to let me understand were his own Property. A very handsome chac'd Gold Repeating-Watch, from which depended several curious Seals, with the Picture in Miniature of a young Gentleman, lay on the Tea-board; which, altogether as it was, he said, he should be a Loser in the taking a Hundred and fifty Guineas for. From a Pincushion, that hung on a Hook by the Chimney-Piece, four excessive fine brilliant Rings darted their Rays upon me——Alas! poor miserable Company thought I to myself.

WHILST we were sipping our Chocolate Some-body tapp'd at the Door, and was desir'd to walk in; when a Figure, more like a Spectre than a Mortal, presented himself before us. On his Head (an almost brimless Hat being first taken off) appear'd a Wig, not Half a Degree better than those made use of to wipe the loose Dirt from the Shoes, by the honourable Society of Gentlemen-Japanners. It being very warm Weather, and Waistcoats unnecessary, an old (once white) dirty, tatter'd Duffel Horseman's Coat, Owner of about three Buttons, was all the Covering (except a Shirt, as black as the Chimney-back) of his lamentable-looking Carcase; to which all the other Articles of his Drapery being strictly correspondent, they need no more Description.

HAVING finish'd his ceremonial Punctilios, he was desir'd by *Diaper* to sit down——A Piece of good Nature

ture that I perceiv'd was somewhat out of the common Course, by the poor Man's unconfirm'd gaping Stare, that continu'd to torture his Muscles, until *Diaper* repeated the Request, in a kind of forcible Tone.

BEING seated, he was asked by the Manager, What was his Will? To which (having pick'd his Fingers for some Time, whilst two little dirty-fac'd, snotty-nos'd Children, were grubbing out large Handfuls from a Quartern-Loaf, that he carried under his Arm) he replied, with a good deal of Hesitation, That he should take it as a very great Favour, if he (*Diaper*) would be so good as to let him have his Shares; and lend him moreover Half a Guinea, to pay some little Scores, that he ow'd in the Town, "Why really, Mr. *Snivel*," replied *Diaper*, "you very well know that I am never backward to do good-natur'd Actions; and you are likewise sensible, how much I have suffer'd by my Kindness: However, there is the Half-Guinea for you, which makes the Debt Four Pounds Ten Shillings and Sixpence; and there's a Crown for your own, and your Wife's Share." I thought, Sir, asking Pardon," said *Snivel*, "that this Money would have made it just Four Pounds. My good Woman and I counted it so." "Your good Woman's a B——," replied *Diaper*, and you are a dirty Scoundrel, and thus it is that I am treated for my Generosity. I have a great Mind to forswear lending another Farthing as long as I live."—"Nay, nay, I ask Pardon; I ask Pardon, Sir—I must own my Memory is apt to deceive me now and then," return'd *Snivel*, (trembling like an Aspen) "I believe I was wrong. Aye, aye, now I recollect, this Half-Guinea doth make it just Four Pounds Ten Shillings and Six-pence—I thank you heartily, Sir!—" "Good Morning to you, good Sir.—Come, Children."

As soon as this unhappy Wretch was gone (to the latter Part of whose Speech his Tyrant vouchsafed no Answer) "Pray, Mr. *Du Pleffis*," said *Diaper*, "how long may you have been in our Business?" To which I having answer'd, That from my first Commencement, it was but a Year and three Quarters—"Why,"

said he, "that's but a short Time, indeed: And pray
 "what Companies may you have travell'd in?" Having
 satisfied him in that Point likewise—— "You cannot, I
 "suppose," said he, "be very well studied——you
 "have not had indeed the proper Opportunity for it."
 I told him, that I was not ready in above seven or eight
 Parts of any Sort of Consequence; which, having re-
 peated to him, he replied, I should do them all. "I
 "know very well," added he, "that I shall, by such
 "a Step in your Favour, give much Umbrage to some
 "very great People in their own Conceit, but that's
 "immaterial. It is now," continued *Diaper*, "near
 "Eleven o'Clock; we will take a Turn towards the
 "Playhouse, and see what the Company are about."

As we were walking through the Street, a little
 nimble Fellow whipp'd from out of a Grocer's-Shop,
 o' the contrary Side o' the Way, thrust a folded Paper
 into my Hand, and was gone again with a Spring, like
 a Grasshopper, not giving me the Time to enquire
 what it was he had presented me, which I could not
 help testifying my Surprize at. "Oh," said *Diaper*,
 smiling, "that is our Stage-keeper; who seeing you
 "in Company with me, and well-dress'd, had a double
 "Reason to suspect you a Stranger, and as such a fit
 "Mark for his Diligence—— It is a Bill for the Play
 "of *Hamlet*, which we act To-morrow, that he has
 "now given you—— The Characters compriz'd in a
 "Quarter of a Sheet, and wrote. When we play at
 "any Place, where there is a Printing-Office, we
 "make use of that Conveniency; but where there is
 "not, we follow this Method: And those Members of
 "our Company," added he, "that can write, like the
 "Office very well; as they get Six-pence a Hundred
 "for doing them, and are found Paper."

BEING by this Time arriv'd at the Barn-Yard, we
 perceiv'd those Gentlemen, whose Business did not im-
 mediately want them on the Stage, diverting themselves
 at Pitch-and-Hussel; but, on our Approach, they in-
 stantly quitted their Game, and ran, one and all, to
 compliment and stare at the new Hand. I repaid their
 Caresses with as much Complaisance as I was Master of,
 and as much Sincerity as I thought they deserved.

THE *Bevil* of the foregoing Night was then rehearsing the Part of *Hamlet*; and because (upon a little farther Acquaintance with the Company's Affairs) I found Mr. *Strutill* (for that was his Name) to be the Person who represented all the principal Characters, both Tragedy and comedy, I cannot omit a Sketch of his Street-walking Appearance.

A most shocking, shabby, no-corner'd lac'd Hat cover'd the Defects (for the Time being) of an antiquated Major-Wig, and a piec'd Callimancoe Night-Gown did the same friendly Office for those of a fray'd and holely black Sattin Waistcoat. Greasy Leather Breeches, with coarse Yarn Stockings and dirty Shoes, compleated the Habit of the Hero, and gave him very much of the Look of one of those miserable Potentates, who hold their Territors dependent on that Scourge and Terror of hair-brain'd Monarchs, the renown'd *Monro*.

I HAVE here presented a View of the capital Performer; from whence with what has been before said of *Sniwel*, the Reader may form his Judgment concerning the whole Group; which, however horrid it may be, cannot be below the Mark, I will venture to assure him.

ALL this Appearance of Calamity however reflected very little Concern to me, more than my natural Compassion occasioned me ever to have for real Objects; since, when I was last in *London*, beside the Ten Guineas received from Lord *A*—— (and which Circumstance had slip'd my Memory before) my Cousins *Eger-ton* and *Miller*, altho' they remain'd obstinately bent not to see me, yet furnished to me the Sum of ten Pounds; and farthermore promis'd to remit me the Interest of my Money, as I should have Occasion for it. Such an Addition to the Sharing and Benefits that I expected to partake of, I did not doubt would keep me at least from starving; and as to Cloaths and other Necessaries, I was now tolerably well stock'd for a Twelve-month.

DIAPER's People were at this time upon their Benefits, five of which were to come; and, after they were finish'd, the Company was to remove to a fresh Town

Town. All had been paired in their Benefits by the Manager, except an old Gentlewoman, who had been a Devotee of *Melpomene's* near forty Years, being then in her Fifty-eighth—and no longer capable of giving Pleasure to the World in any Kind, as she had been won't to do, was now retain'd by *Diaper* rather from a charitable Motive, than for any Service she could be of—He one Day call'd me aside, and ask'd me, If I was willing to do a good-natur'd, generous Action, by a Person whom he should propose to me? To which answering very readily; said he, “ You have not yet play'd; and, as I am determin'd the Plays shall remain as they were settled to the End of the Town, there will be no occasion—Now, I am of Opinion, that if you will be kind enough to accept poor old Mrs. *Matchlock* for a Partner, and perform that Night for the only Time, the Novelty of seeing a Stranger may occasion a full House; and it will not only be a Piece of Charity done to the Woman, but likewise be the Means, in all Probability, of putting five, or six, or ten Pieces, perhaps, in your own Pocket.”

I IMMEDIATELY chimed in with the Proposal, but my Brethren did not much approve of it; however, *Diaper* being ever accusom'd to carry all those Points by Force that would not yield to Persuasion, soon over-rul'd their Motions.

As we had Time sufficient, and I apprehended it might strengthen the Affair in some little Measure to have printed Bills, I sent a *London* one, that I had by me, of *George Barnwell* for a Copy (after having inserted the proper Alterations, and every Thing necessary) to the City of *B—*, which was not above thirty Miles from us, and the Expence trifling.

THE Morning before the Benefit was to be, as I was reading my Part very comfortably in my Bed, my Landlord came to tell me, that the Stage-keeper wanted to speak with me. I desir'd he might be sent up; and his Business was to let me know, that Mrs. *Matchlock* was come to go about with me. “ What is it you mean, “ *James?*” said I—“ Go about with me!— I don't understand you.”—
“ About

"About the Town, Sir," answered *James* — "Do, for Heaven's sake, explain yourself," cried I (still staring with Surprise) — "About the Town! What to do?" — "Why, Sir," replied *James*, "to wait upon all the Gentlemen and Ladies, in order to bespeak their Company at the Play To-morrow." — "Where am I to find them all, *James*?" — "At Home, Sir, about this Time" — "What," said I, "go to each of their respective Houses, knock at the Door, and give them a Bill of the Play, and request their Presence at it, ha! *James*?" — "Yes, Sir" — "I'll not do it — Mrs. *Matchlock* may, if she pleases; but I will not, I assure you" — "Why, Sir, it has been always the Custom: Mr. *Marverse*, Mr. *Ribspare*, Mr. *Struttil*, Mr. *Snivel*, and all the Gentlemen and Ladies have done it" — "Well, *James*, it does not signify your pleading in Behalf of a beggarly Custom to me, that I neither can, or will comply with — and that's sufficient." — "Well, well, do you come with me then, *James*, if Mr. *Du Plessis* does not like it," said Mrs. *Matchlock* (who had been listening on the Stairs, during the whole Time of our Dialogue.) "We must make haste, I can tell you; for you know, we are oblig'd to go over to *H* —, before Dinner;" naming a little Village, about four Miles distant.

WELL, away they run, and I had the Satisfaction of seeing through my Window how industriously the old Lady did her Business, she not missing a single Shed, that had but the basest Resemblance of a House. — The Reason of this Fashion's appearing so extremely odd to me was, because they took no Benefits in any Company I had been in before, except the *London* one, and their Affairs were manag'd after a quite different Manner.

C H A P. XXX.

The Company remove to C ——. Are join'd by two People from London. Their Characters. A Story told by Cynick.

AFTER I had breakfasted, I stepped down to the Barn, where I found Mrs. *Snivel* repeating the
Part

Part of *Maria*, in a most strange, insensible Manner, after her Husband; who held the Book, and read to her Sentence by Sentence. "Madam," said I, "pray did you never do this Part any where?"—"No, burn it," cried she, "and I wish I had not done it now; for she's a poor, good-for nothing Dawdle." "Oh, fy, my Dear," said the Husband, "what makes you think so? I am sure *Maria* is a very pretty Part.—Don't you be uneasy, Sir—She will be ready, I'll answer for her."

AFTER this little Interruption, they proceeded again to the bungling Method before mentioned—"Madam," said I, I should think you had better refer to your Part—I see you have it in your Hand.—for you seem mightily at a Loss,"—She not heeding me, I repeated the Advice; when her Husband, drawing me aside, told me, It was to both his and her great Misfortune, that he found himself under the Necessity of owning that his Wife could not read—"No," replied I, "I am amaz'd! Why how, in the Name of Wonder, hath she been able to get any of her Business into her Head?"—"By my frequent Repetition of her Parts to her, in the Manner you have already been Witness to," answered *Snivel*; "and I'll take Care she shall be ready, I'll warrant you."

SATISFIED with this Promise of his, I left them to follow their own Method; but could not help reflecting on the Depravity of wretched Mortals, ever restless and unsatisfied with that Portion of Bread allotted them by Providence, although not one in ten can carve for themselves, without cutting their Fingers.

OUR Benefit turned out most gallantly, the Barn being crammed as full as it could possibly hold. After all Deductions were satisfied, we clear'd Eight Guineas and a Half each, which pleas'd me much; and abundantly more so, as it came with full as little Trouble o' my Side as Expectation.

THAT very Night the Cloaths and Scenes, which (to do them Justice) were extremely good, were put on board; and the next Morning we all embark'd in the same Vessel, for C——. After we had been in that Town about a Fortnight, our Business, that had 'till then been

exceſſively dull, began to grow brisk, on Account of a Couple of additional Performers from *London*; it being at that Time the vacant Part of the Season at the Royal Theatres. These were an old Gentleman, excellent in Low Comedy Characters; such as the *Miser*, *Sir Francis Gripe*, *Barnaby Brattle*, &c. and a Lady, who, but for the Reputation of belonging to one of the Houses, and her being indeed somewhat younger and handsomer, was not at all superior to Mrs. *Ribſpare*: Those Requisites, with a tolerable genteel Taste for Dress, and a sufficient Power of indulging it, were strong Attractions for the young Fellows of the Town, with whom our Scenes were perpetually crouded.

With the Gentleman above mention'd, whom I shall distinguish under the Name of *Cynick*, I pass'd the most pleasant Hours that I ever experienc'd whilst I continued in that Company. He was the Son of a Clergyman, who had enjoy'd a very considerable Benefice, and he himself had been originally design'd for the Pulpit: but Accidents of some Sort or other (which as I found he did not care to expatiate on, I had no Right to request farther Knowledge of) had reduc'd him to the Necessity of applying to the Theatre for a Livelihood, he had no other Means of obtaining.

Those Evenings on which the Company did not perform, Mr. *Cynick* and I were accusom'd to spend at a House where they sold *Ramsbury Beer*, of which the old Gentleman was extreamly fond. There, over a Pipe of mild Tobacco, he us'd to amuse me with a thousand merry Tales, concerning the Adventures that he had met with, when himself was Strolling; a Life, that, he said, he had follow'd upwards of a dozen Years, before he gain'd his Admission to the Theatre.

"You have," said he to me one Afternoon, often entertain'd me with accidental Circumstances, that have fall'n under your Observation; I will, in Return, relate you some of mine——I was when a young Fellow about Three and Twenty, playing with a little Company at a Place call'd *D*——. Our Business was so extream bad, that, I think, we did not share above Eighteen-Pence each, in seven Weeks. We were reduc'd to that Necessity at last, that I myself
" liv'd

“ liv'd upon a Sea-Biscuit for two Days, and some of
 “ the poor People had not even so much as that.

“ OUR Cloaths and Scenes, such as they were, could
 “ not be mov'd without clearing Arrears; and, to make
 “ us compleatly wretched, we had not so much as one
 “ Female with a marketable Face in the Company, or
 “ perhaps Things might not have been quite so bad.
 “ We were reduc'd, in short, to the very last Extremity,
 “ when our Stage-keeper, a good industrious Fellow,
 “ came one Night with a cheerful Countenance to the
 “ Master of the Company's Lodgings, where we were
 “ all met in Council, to consider if there were any possi-
 “ bility of extricating ourselves from our deplorable
 “ Situation. *I am come, Sir,* said he (rubbing his Hands)
 “ *to let you know, that, if you will give me Leave to take*
 “ *a small Journey, I can earn as much Money as will serve*
 “ *to re'ease the Cloaths and Scenes, and put Money in your*
 “ *Pockets besides.*—*Aye, Bob,* said the Manager, *that's*
 “ *good News indeed; but by what strange Means is this*
 “ *to be effected? Why, Sir,* replied Bob, *I have been just*
 “ *now in Company with a Countryman of mine, who is*
 “ *come from S—, which is but twelve Miles off; and he*
 “ *tells me as how there are a Couple of Men there under*
 “ *Sentence of Death, and that To-morrow is Hanging-Day;*
 “ *but the Fellow being dead who us'd to perform that Office,*
 “ *the Sheriff is at a great Loss for an Executioner, and no*
 “ *Person can be found willing to supply the Place, although*
 “ *he has offer'd Two Guineas out of his own Pocket, above*
 “ *the usual Price. Now this Jobb, with your Leave, Sir,*
 “ *said Bob, I will undertake to compleat—Any Thing*
 “ *that's honest, rather than starve; what say you, Master?*
 “ *—Why, faith, Bob,* said he, *if you like the Office,*
 “ *with all my Heart—I have no Objection.*

“ THUS encourag'd, Bob set off; and, by Six o'Clock
 “ the next Night, return'd with the Money. A Part of
 “ this Wealth went to release our Cloaths, &c. and the
 “ Remainder was shar'd, at One Shilling and Two-
 “ Pence per Share.

“ AFTER I had gorg'd my half-famish'd Carcase
 “ with Bread and Cheese and Ale, I made the best of
 “ my Way to a Market-Town, about six Miles from
 “ us, where I knew there was a Travelling-Mountebank

“ with

" with whom I enter'd into preſent Pay, and ſerv'd him
" in the double Capacity of Apothecary and Merry-
" Andrew: In which Station I acquitted myſelf with
" Credit, as I underſtand Drugs tolerably well, having
" made Phyſick, in ſome Meaſure, my Study; and, as
" to thoſe low Sallies of Humour neceſſary to the other
" Branch of my Buſineſs, I cut ſo good a Figure, that the
" Doctor us'd frequently to compliment me with the
" Title of——a damn'd clever Fellow.

" HAPPY had it been, both for himſelf and me, had
" he neglected to viſit the little Town of T——; for the
" firſt Night that he lay there he drank himſelf into a
" Fever, in Company with a young Fox-hunting Squire;
" and an Apothecary of the Place, which latter I ſuſpect
" of doſing the Bumpers: But however, be that as it
" will, he was hurried into another World, and I into
" another Company.

" I HAD not been ſettled with them above a Week,"
continued *Cynick*, " before a very odd Accident hap-
" pened, by which we nearly loſt one of our main Per-
" formers. It happen'd at that Time, that there were
" Horſe Races in the Neighbourhood of L——, where
" we play'd, at which were preſent Abundance of
" People of Faſhion; who agreed, one and all, to ho-
" nour us with their Company, to ſee the Play of the
" *Stratagem*. The Perſon who perform'd the Chara-
" cter of *Scrub*, gave very great Satisfaction to his Au-
" dience; and, about an Hour and Half after the Co-
" medy was over, a Waiter came from a Tavern to the
" Inn where we play'd, and where we chanc'd to be all
" at Supper, to enquire for the Gentleman who had
" acted *Scrub* that Night.

" S H A D E having answered, that himſelf was the
" Perſon. *Why then, Sir,* ſaid he, *pray be pleas'd to ſtep*
" *over with me directly to our Houſe; there are five or ſix*
" *Gentlemen of Diſtinction there, that would be glad to ſee*
" *you.* Away ſhot *Shade*, full of Expectations; and,
" upon entering the Room where the Gentlemen were,
" he was deſir'd by them to ſit down; which, after a
" tedious Number of Scrapes and Bows, and thrice
" over-

“ over-turning his Chair in his Confusion, he ventur'd
“ to do.

“ THE first Proposition made to him was, his imme-
“ diately taking off a Half-Pint Bumper of Arrack
“ Punch, with two Spoonfuls of Gunpowder in it ;
“ which having readily complied with, L——**** de-
“ manded his Name. To which having replied ;
“ *Why then, said my L——, by G——d, Shade, you are*
“ *a clever Fellow. Come give us a Song——Indeed my*
“ *L——, I can't sing, answered Shade.——What the*
“ *Devil, cries another, not sing!——Belong to the*
“ *Playhouse, and not sing!——Why then, d——n you,*
“ *you vagabond Son of a B——b, tip us a Hornpipe. But*
“ *he replying, That he was not Master of that Talent*
“ *either——Come, d——n ye, tell us some funny Stories*
“ *then, says a fourth, and let them be relishing——Still*
“ *the Reply ran in the Negative ; when one of these*
“ *Gallants getting up, and reeling towards him as well*
“ *as he could, D——n you, said he, I thought you had*
“ *been a good, whimsical, dry, joyous Son of a W——e ;*
“ *but curse light upon your d——nd dull Maxzard, you*
“ *have no more Spirit than a dead Cabbage——Make us*
“ *some Laugh, ye Thief, of one Sort or another, or by G——d*
“ *I'll run you through the Body. In so saying, he drew*
“ *forth his Tilter ; and the rest, regarding it as their*
“ *Cue, did the same.*

“ POOR *Shade*, not being able to guess how far the
“ frolicksome Humours of such hot-headed Sparks
“ might transport them, dropp'd down on his Knees in
“ the Middle of the Room, and begg'd, for Heaven's
“ sake, they would give him Leave to go Home. *I*
“ *have already told ye, dear Gentlemen, said he, and in*
“ *that I have indeed told ye the Truth, that I am utterly*
“ *disqualified either to sing or dance ; but I will do what-*
“ *ever you shall please to desire, that is in my Power.*

“ AFTER they had play'd several strange Pranks with
“ him, which he, for Self-Preservation sake, was oblig'd
“ to comply with ; they told him, Because he was
“ such a Lump of Stupidity, they would each of them
“ have three Kicks at his A—e, and then he might go
“ and be d——n'd.

“ THIS

“ THIS Indignity he was oblig’d likewise quietly to submit to, and was afterwards suffer’d to pass into the Yard, on his Way Home ; but before he had measur’d the one Half of it, he was order’d back by them, and led under a Pump ; where three held him, whilst the others pump’d on him until he was almost dead : And they had certainly finish’d him, if the Master and Servants of the House (though they dar’d not publickly interpose) had not alarm’d the Town’s People ; who came rushing in, and by Force deliver’d him from these mad young Men of Figure, who otherwise, by his Death, had incurred the Penalty of the Laws, provided against such Barbarities—In how depopulated a State,” continued *Cynick*, “ might we soon behold poor *England*, if every Man that should be found destitute of Wit and Humour was liable, for those Defaults, to have his Brains beat out ?”

C H A P. XXXI.

Mr. Cynick continues his Tales—That Gentleman leaves the Company. They determine to bring Diaper to some Account for Monies, unjustly kept from them.

A N O T H E R Story of *Mr. Cynick’s* was concerning a treacherous Trick that was play’d him, when very green in the Business of Acting, by one of his Comrades ; who pretending great Friendship for him, shew’d him, at the Time of his Benefit, to a very large Linnen-Draper’s Shop, the Master of which, he told him, had not let one of those Nights pass without taking at least half a dozen Tickets of the Person whose Property it was, he being a Man most remarkably fond of the Players.

“ I was,” said *Cynick*, “ as you may imagine, highly delighted with this Piece of Intelligence, and hastened to make my Advantage of it ; when stepping into the Middle of the Shop, wherein I saw no Person, I was accosted from a lofty Kind of Compting-house behind me (that had ’till then escap’d my Observation) by an elderly, grave-looking Man, who, mistake-
ing

"ing me for a Customer, came down and began to ac-
 "cost me as such. Pray, Sir, said I, is not your Name
 "Gathergold? Yea, Friend, replied he, it is. Why
 "then, Sir, return'd I, by Advice, I have made bold to
 "wait on you with a Bill. I know not, my Friend, an-
 "swer'd the old Man, what Advice thee may'st have
 "had, but I myself have no Advice of any other Bill than
 "two, which I expect by the Manchester Bag, and that
 "Post I am sure is not come in yet.—You misapprehend
 "me, Sir, said I, I mean a Bill o' the Play. The Play!
 "the Play! cried the old Fellow (in a confounded Pas-
 "sion) the Play! ——— Pray avoid my House ———
 "avoid my House———Some one, as idle as thyself, hath
 "imposed on thee; for none of my Family thirsteth after
 "such Vanities, I can assure thee——Go, go, get thee
 "gone, and take this along with thee, that had I had any
 "Sort of Influence over the Magistracy, instead of harbour-
 "ing such Vipers as ye are, I shou'd have given my Vote to
 "have had ye all whipt out of the Town at the Cart's-
 "Tail.

"I MADE all possible Haste from the Shop, while he
 "was pronouncing the last Sentence, and glad I was
 "to find myself in the Street once again. When I
 "came to my Companion, I vented all the Spleen I was
 "Master of upon him, for using me so ill; but the
 "more I rag'd, the more he laugh'd at me, and I had
 "no Remedy for the Affront but Patience, 'till an Op-
 "portunity should fall out of revenging it, and which
 "very soon happen'd.

"My Friend, M Dillon, had neither a bad Person,
 "or a good Understanding; and therefore Conceit,
 "which (as *Shakespeare* justly observes) in *weakest Bodies*
 "strongest Works, had persuaded him into an Opinion
 "of the former being much better than it really was,
 "and that of Consequence every Woman that look'd
 "at him must be certainly finiten.

"He had entrusted all the Company round, at
 "Times, with an Affair, which he enjoind every one
 "separately to be secret as Death concerning, in regard
 "to a young Lady whom he always made it his Business
 "to hand to her Coach from the Play, and who really

" was

“ was a Person of good Fortune. As often as he had
“ perform'd this Ceremony, so often he told us he had
“ met with such strong Marks of Favour from her, as
“ were plain Indications of her having somewhat in her
“ Head more than ordinary. The Lady's Family liv'd
“ about four Miles distant from the Town where we
“ then play'd; and I therefore, in the following Man-
“ ner, conducted a Plot, the Success of which I had
“ no Sort of Doubt of.

“ A LETTER was wrote, in a Female Hand, pur-
“ porting the great Restriction that the Sender labour-
“ ed under, which render'd it next to an Impossibility
“ that she shou'd be able to speak to him in Publick;
“ but requested him, if he had the least Value for her, to
“ give her the Meeting in such a Corn-Field, about
“ Half a Mile from her House, which he might distin-
“ guish by the Gate of it being painted Blue, there be-
“ ing no other like it in the Neighbourhood—That he
“ must be there punctually at Two in the Afternoon, as
“ her Brother and Sister would then be Abroad, but
“ propos'd to return by Six, from the Seat of 'Squire
“ E——, where they were to dine; and from which
“ Engagement she had excus'd herself by a feign'd Ill-
“ ness, purely for the Happiness of seeing him, and
“ therefore again entreated him not to fail.

“ THIS Billet I contriv'd should come to his Hands
“ about Eight o'Clock in the Morning, of a Play-Day,
“ wherein he was principally concern'd; and, because
“ I chose to embarrass him as much as possible, I sent
“ it by a Soldier, whom I charg'd to say it was deli-
“ ver'd to him in the Market-place by a Servant, in
“ such Livery as I knew to be that of the Lady's Fa-
“ mily *M'Dillon's* Designs were form'd on. I charg'd
“ him, that if he should be ask'd any farther Questions,
“ he should say, that the Footman had told him he
“ could not come himself to his Lodgings, for Reasons
“ that he should give him the first Opportunity he had.

“ THIS Bait was most greedily swallow'd; and I could
“ hardly keep the risible Muscles within due Bounds,
“ at hearing *M'Dillon* ask the Company round, Who
“ could lend him a pair of Boots or Spatterdashies, be-
“ ing oblig'd to ride five or six Miles upon very urgent

“ Business?

“ Business ? To add to his Misfortune, I carelessly ask’d
 “ him, during the Time of the Rehearsal (it being a
 “ warm Morning) if he had any Objection to a Draught
 “ of Cool Tankard ? To which having replied, that
 “ he had not, it was accordingly order’d. When it
 “ was brought us, I secretly convey’d a Drachm of Ja-
 “ lap into it; and, after having just sipp’d, presented
 “ the Cup to *M^r Dillon*, who, elate with the fancied Hap-
 “ piness of possessing a fine Woman and Six Thousand
 “ Pounds, quaff’d the Remainder very near off, with-
 “ out any Discovery of the Trick that had been play’d
 “ him.

“ A QUARTER before Six in the Evening the unfor-
 “ tunate Lover return’d, but incapable of performing
 “ his Business: having had a Fall from his Horse, where-
 “ by he was considerably bruised. He complained
 “ likewise much of a violent Looseness, that had ob-
 “ liged him to alight at least a dozen Times. In
 “ spight of the dismal Gravity of his melancholy Vi-
 “ age, and the Pain I was myself under of having (tho in-
 “ nocently) been the Cause of his hurting himself, it
 “ was with very great Difficulty that I refrain’d from
 “ laughing.

“ He did not, at that Time, mention a Syllable con-
 “ cerning his Amour, but the next morning he open’d
 “ the whole Matter to me; how, in Consequence of a
 “ perfidious Letter, he had been made a most egregi-
 “ ous Dupe of, and suffer’d to walk up and down a
 “ Field for the best Part of three Hours to no Purpose,
 “ by a jilting Hussey, whom he had been deceived in,
 “ and whom he was determin’d never to trouble his
 “ Head any more about.

“ I COMFORTED him, as well as I could, to endure
 “ the Disappointment; and made all convenient Haste
 “ away from him, that I might indulge a Mirth at Li-
 “ berry, which I found extreamly difficult to smother
 “ any longer.—Thus I fairly compleated my Re-
 “ venge, cured *M^r Dillon* of a wild goose Chace, and
 “ occasioned a Loss to the fair Lady of a Heart, that
 “ she was insensible she had ever gain’d.”

“ *CYNICK* had an inexhaustible Fund of these
 “ Kind of Stories; and his Manner of relating them was

so peculiar to himself, I must confess I never met with any Body like him.

THE ill Treatment dealt to this Gentleman, from the censorious Tongues of our malicious Herd (who became Enemies to him from no other Motive than that of his being possessed of every Sort of superior Merit, and whose poisonous Infection had been spread to his Prejudice through all the Chandlers and Gin Shops in the Town) ruin'd his Benefit; so that he return'd to London heartily disgusted, and fully determined never to concern himself in a second Expedition with such pitiful Colleagues.

His Departure deprived me of a most understanding, witty, humorous, and charming Companion.—It must be confess'd, that *Cynick*, from a natural Petulancy of Temper, heightened by worldly Crosses as well as bodily Infirmities, had contracted a Peevishness, that was sometimes disagreeable. He had likewise a Vein of satiric Humour, that procur'd him Enemies; but then they were such as either had not Capacity sufficient to relish his Beauties, or whose infamous Actions merited the Lash they received from him.

ABOUT a Fortnight after *Cynick* had left us, a Convention of the whole Company was summoned, to inspect into, and overhaul (as *Marverse* term'd it) the Conduct of *Diaper*, for two Years backwards. We had, the Night before, shar'd Five Shillings each, which furnished us nobly for the Expence of this factious Committee.

A GALLON of *Ramsbury* being set on the Table, with it's necessary Attendants of Pipes and Tobacco, and the Landlord ordered to let no Person to our Company without previous Notice, not even a Servant without being rung for, the Business of the present Hour was opened by a very good hearted Man, but the worst O-rator (except *Marverse*) in the Company. Mr. *Rib-spare*'s Defects proceeded from a paralytick Distemper, which had so violently affected his Nerves, that scarce one Word in twenty that he uttered was intelligible. The Blemishes of *Marverse* proceeded from sheer downright Ignorance. His Words might be heard indeed but too plainly, but his Meaning cou'd only be guess'd at, because he never spoke other than Nonsense.

POOR

POOR *Ribspare* open'd in the subsequent Manner :
 " I appre,he,he,he,end ; I appre,he,he,he,end, I say,
 " that, that, that, that, the Ca,a,a,a,ase, that we are
 " me, e,e,e,e, et upon"——" Fill a Pipe, Master
 " *Ribspare*," said *Strutill*, " and I will read you some
 " Quæries, that, I believe, will be *Grimgribber* to
 " *Diaper*." " Aye, aye," replied *Ribspare*, " *Gi, i,*
 " *i, i, i, imgribber*——I could a, a, a, a, act that Part
 " of *To, o, o, o, o, om* once, and all the sm, a, a, a, a,
 " art Footmen and Pi, i, i, i, mps, better than any Bo-
 " dy ; but tho, o, o, o, o, ose Days are o, o, o, o, over
 " now, and so, o, o, o, o, o I'll fill a Pipe." *Marverse*,
 happening unluckily to sit next me, whisper'd in my
 Ear, That *es* so be he had out-liv'd all his *Frins*, and
 was as *imparfit* in *Speking* as that old palsy-shaken Black-
 guard, d——n him if he wouldn't give any Man a
 Crown that would knock him o' the Head, and sell
 him for a Dog-horse.

C H A P. XXXII.

Contains Quæries, sent from the Company to Diaper for his Answer. Diaper promises to settle the Accompts between himself and Company, the Day succeeding his Benefit, and appoints a Meeting with them for that Purpose.

SILENCE having been twice or thrice requested by *Strutill*, and the whole Company (except one or two of the Ladies) being attentive, he proceeded to read as follows :

" QUÆRIES to be sent (with the Approbation of the Company present) to Mr. Diaper.

" I. WHETHER any of the Company's Accompt Books have been produc'd (all the Members present) since *May*——, which is now upwards of two Years ?

" II. WHETHER, at that Time, there was not allow'd, by Mr. *Diaper*, to remain in his Hands Fifty-six Pounds Eighteen Shillings neat Money, after the whole Stock-Debt, and all Encumbrances on the Company, were discharg'd ?

" III. WHETHER Mr. *Diaper* did not promise the Company, in the most serious Manner, that the
 " before-

“ before-said Fifty-six Pounds Eighteen Shillings should
 “ be equally shar'd, in a Month at farthest after the
 “ said Settlement?

“ IV. WHETHER the said Mr. *Diaper* hath not
 “ denied the frequent Requests made to him by his
 “ Company, from Time to Time, of sharing the said
 “ Money, notwithstanding he knew them to be in the
 “ utmost Distress, until the present Date; when we
 “ find, upon the fairest Calculations, that we have been
 “ able to make, he, the said *Diaper*, hath Two Hun-
 “ dred and Fifty Pounds Eighteen Shillings of the
 “ Company's Money in his Hands, as yet unac-
 “ counted for?

“ V. IF Mr. *Diaper* can deny that he hath the be-
 “ fore-mention'd Sum of Two Hundred and Fifty
 “ Pounds Eighteen Shillings in his Hands?

“ VI. WHY the Books, relative to the Affairs of
 “ the Company, are not laid before them by the Mana-
 “ ger every Morning; or, at least, at all such Times
 “ as any Accompt is to be setrled, or any Cash paid
 “ or receiv'd, according to the customary Practice of
 “ all other Companies?

“ VII. and *Last*. We desire to know for what In-
 “ tent the first and second Night's Product, from Mr.
 “ *Cynick's* Playing, and the first of Miss *Idle's* were
 “ every Farthing taken up, the Sums of which, added
 “ together, amounted to Seventy-five Pounds Sixteen
 “ Shillings; which, together with the Sum mention'd
 “ in the fourth Article of these Quæries, make the
 “ Total of the Cash in Mt. *Diaper's* Hands Three
 “ Hundred and Twenty-six Pounds Fourteen Shil-
 “ lings: Therefore we expect, and peremptorily insist
 “ upon knowing when the said Mr. *Diaper* means to
 “ settle his Affairs, and share the Balance so long kept
 “ from, though so indisputably the Right of the under-
 “ written, much-impos'd-on Members of his Com-
 “ pany.—Sign'd

“ *William Ribspare,*

“ *Anthony Queerman,*

“ *John Smoothum,*

“ *Barnaby Snivel,*

“ *James Strutill,*

- " Thomas Du Plessis,
- " Ferdinand-Leopold Puff,
- " ✠ The Mark of Peter Marwerse,
- " Mary Ribspare,
- " Dorothy Blubber,
- " ☉ The Mark of Ann Snivel,
- " Margaret Marwerse,
- " Jane Smoothum,
- " Lucretia Matchblock."

THE Contents of the above Paper having been well approv'd by the Company, it was seal'd up and sent immediately to the *Red Lyon* Tavern, where we knew *Diaper* was engag'd to sup; and the Waiter who carried it, brought us Word back, that Mr. *Diaper*, after having perus'd it, desir'd him to tell the Company that he should consider of the Matter, and give his Answer the next Morning. There being only two Plays more to be perform'd in the Town, the latter of which was to be for *Diaper's* Benefit, we came to a Resolution, That unless he gave us the next Day, or the Day following, an absolute Answer, there should be no Play for him.

THIS material Point thus adjusted, the Town became the Topick of Conversation; from the Inhabitants of which our People imagin'd they had met with a great deal of ill Treatment, in that they did not throw away their Money plentifully enough on some of the most barbarous Manglers of Language, that ever yet disgrac'd either Sock or Buskin. By Way of Revenge, no individual Character, of any Note, escap'd being larded by them with the most inveterate Sarcasms, that human Rancour could furnish; always having an especial Care, to spare the most Deserving, least.

IN Consequence of the Quaries before-mention'd to have been sent to Mr. *Diaper*, he regarded each of us, the next Morning, with a mistrustful and fiery Eye. When we had finish'd the Rehearsal, he said, That as we were altogether, he could not take a more proper Opportunity of informing us, that he had consider'd the Contents of the Paper, which we had sent to him the Night before; and really thought he had not behav'd at any Time in such Manner, as could furnish a just Reason to suspect him Guilty of fraudulent Practices.

As to some particular Persons, whose Names he was surpriz'd to see among the List of the Cavillers, he said, They knew that he had been as an own Father to them, in Times of Distress; Instances of which he did not think worth his while, at that Time, to recapitulate, since their own Consciences could not do otherwise than take his Part against them.

WE assur'd him, one and all, that the Intent of sending him the Paper, was not with the least Design to offend him, or grounded on Prejudice of any Sort, but merely with a View towards a friendly Settlement between himself and Company; the which, if he had an Inclination to preserve the Character of an honest Man, he could not be averse to, on cool Reflection what Monies of ours he had in his Possession, and what great Necessity every Individual of the Society labour'd under, excepting *Marverse*; who, ignorant as he was, had yet Cunning sufficient to keep always Money by him, which he got in a somewhat safer indeed, though not honefter Method than picking of Pockets, *viz.* by cheating Servants, Prentices, and Country-Folks of such Class as his Manners and Conversation qualified him to keep Company with, at Put, All-fours, Cribbage, and the other Games familiar to that Sort of People.

As *Diaper* could not, in any justifiable Manner, oppose the Reasonableness of our Demands, he told us that they should absolutely be complied with——

“*Friday* Night you know,” said he, “will be the last of our performing here; and, as that Play is to be done for my Benefit, it is impossible I can altogether attend any Business of another Sort, until that is over: However, between this and *Saturday* Night, I will draw out a fair State of my Accompts, which then, Gentlemen, shall be laid before ye, for your Inspection and Approbation; after which, the Balance shall be fairly and equally divided.”

WE were extreamly well satisfied with this Promise, which, to do him Justice, he was punctual in the Execution of; for on the *Saturday* Morning, about Nine o’Clock, Summons were sent to each of our Lodgings, requiring us to meet him at the *Red Lyon* Tavern at

Seven in the Evening, and both Sides were pretty exact to the Appointment.

ALL being seated and silent, Mr. *Diaper* open'd with insinuating Compliments to some, bitter Invectives against other Members of the Company, and heavy Complaints against the Unhappineses attending the Profession in general: But we soon put a Stop to those Proceedings, by remonstrating, That we did not apprehend we had been assembled to enter into Histories of Cabals, but to do Business, and therefore begg'd that he would forthwith proceed to the Matter in Agitation.

C H A P. XXXIII.

Diaper meets the Company——Produceth a Bill of his Stock-Debt, and treats the Comedians in a very abrupt Manner. A Specimen of their changeable Dispositions:——Determine to leave Diaper as soon as the Business should be finish'd at M——. Meet unexpectedly with an old School-Fellow——What pass'd between us.

THE Manager, finding that for once we were unanimous, drew forth his Account, and began to read as follows:

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
" PAID to Mr. <i>John Newbolt</i> , on Con-	42	0	0
" sideration of his quitting me from the			
" Lease, that I had taken for seven Years,			
" of the Theatre at L——,	0	10	6
" To a Dinner, &c. at the said Re-			
" lease,	1	1	0
" To the Expences of my Journey to			
" and from L——,	5	5	0
" To a Piece of Plate, presented to the			
" Mayor of *****,	0	10	6
" To treat three of the Aldermen, and			
" some of the most topping Tradesfolk of			
" the said Town, upon the <i>Bowling-</i>	3	3	0
" <i>Green</i> ,			
" To touching-up the old Scenes at	3	3	0
" B——,			

T.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
" To Beer, and Bread and Cheefe for the	}	0	5 6
" Painters, - - -			
" To a Set of new Scenes, and two old	}	52	10 0
" Opera Shapes, - - -			
" RENT of the Barn for twelve Weeks,		10	10 0
" CARRIAGE of the Goods from B—	}	2	2 0
" to H—, - - -			
" A BARN, at Ditto, nine Weeks,		4	14 6
" REMOVAL of the People and Goods	}	8	8 0
" from thence to N—, - - -			
" STOCK-DINNER and Supper; with	}	2	6 6
" Coffee, Tea, &c. - - -			
" To a Barn, for eight Weeks,		6	6 0
" To Mr. Du Plessis, for his Charges in	}	2	2 0
" coming to the Company, - - -			
" To three Men, at a Shilling a Night,	}	2	8 0
" to keep the Mob off, - - -			
" My Journey to and from M—, and	}	5	5 0
" the Expence I was at in treating neces-			
" sary People, - - -	}	6	6 0
" THE Carriage of the Company and			
" Goods from N— to M—, - - -	}	0	18 0
" STOCK-SUPPER, at Ditto, - - -			
" RENT of the present Theatre, - - -		21	0 0
" ODD Incidents, the Particulars of	}	15	16 0
" which I cannot now recollect, - - -			
Total		193	7 6

" That, Gentlemen" said he, " is my just Debt. In
 " what Manner you may have made up your Accounts,
 " I can't say; but I am positive that I am right, and
 " should not in the least scruple to make an Affidavit
 " of it, whenever you have an Inclination to call upon
 " me for it. I have here," added he (pulling out a
 " Bag) " Forty Pounds to share amongst ye, which
 " amounts to just Two Pounds each.—As to your
 " Quæries in regard to my Management, I have mislaid
 " them, so that they cou'd not be found, or I shou'd
 " have brought them with me: But that is not very
 " material, since I must beg Leave to acquaint ye once
 " for all, that my Will has ever been, and shall ever

"continue to be, my Regulator; and they that won't conform themselves to my Customs, may do as they think proper." In expressing these last Words he rose from his Seat, clapp'd on his Hat in the cholerick Cock, flung down Half a Guinea for the Reckoning, and said, That he shou'd be glad to meet us all at E——, on the *Monday* following; and those that were not there at that Time, he shou'd no longer regard as Members of the Company.

HAVING thus deliver'd himself, he swung out of the Room with a scornful Smile and rhodomontade Air, that seem'd to say, Poor miserable Rascals, you must needs follow me; because I am well ascertain'd ye are unable to help yourselves otherways.

It was with a secret Indignation that I beheld these Wretches, who, behind *Diaper's* Back, had been every one of them (in their Turns) vapouring what they would say and do, in order to upbraid and shame him for his Impositions, strive who should shew him the greatest Marks of fulsome Respect and nauseous Adulation.

He could not have measur'd any very great Distance from the Tavern, however, before the Weather-cock-Gentry began to fall into a Torrent of scurrilous Abuse against him. Not the minutest Article, towards the Erection of the defamatory File, was omitted; and *Marverse*, who, during the whole Time of *Diaper's* being present, scarce attempted to open his Lips, now made ten Times more Noise than all the rest put together; but what he utter'd was in Half-kind of Phrases, that (like China unhappily broken) were not to be join'd; or, if they were, cou'd never be fit for Use——Dog! Rogue! Blackguard! Thief! common Pickpocket! Scoundrel! and such-like genteel Epithets, well season'd with Oaths and Execrations, were all that could be particularly distinguish'd from him; and those were utter'd in so clamorous and dissonant a Manner, that a Nobleman, who was on a Journey and happen'd to lie in that Inn, and at no great Distance from the Room where we were, found himself oblig'd to send his Gentleman down to the Mistress of the House with a Message, that whilst that terrible Noise

continued

continued it was impossible for him to get any Rest, and he was oblig'd to set forward very early.

ON Account of this Complaint, and because there was not any other Room convenient for us that was empty, we adjourn'd to the same Place where we a few Nights before had had our Meeting. As to my own Part, I excus'd myself from accompanying them in the best Manner I could, and went Home; not only because I had drank as much as I car'd for, but I began to be heartily tir'd of the insipid Barrenness of a Set of Beings, incapable of furnishing Conversation on more than one or two standing Topicks; and those of such a Kind, that a Man of the least Reflection must blush to own himself entertain'd with.

I WAS resolv'd to quit Mr. *Diaper* when we should have finish'd at E——, because, in a very little Time following, I became of Age; when I was determin'd to settle myself in some less precarious, and more reputable Way of Livelihood. Accidents however happen'd, that made me put my Project in Execution somewhat sooner than I intended.

OUR Company, although many of them had declar'd absolutely that they never would have the least Concern of any Sort more with *Diaper*, yet thought better of it, on a maturer Deliberation; and, one and all, came into that General's Standard, now set up at E——. On the *Friday* after we were settled, we opened with the Play of *Tamerlane* to a numerous, though not brilliant Audience; who, never having seen any better Actors, were well satisfied with our Performances.

THE next Morning, about Eight o'Clock, my Landlady came to my Chamber-Door, and said, that a Gentleman wanted to speak with me. I could not imagine, by any Means, who it should be, as I was an entire Stranger in the Town; however, dressing myself as expeditiously as possible, I came down to the Parlour, where I observed a young Gentleman dress'd in Scarlet and Silver, who stood with his Back towards me, examining some Prints that hung there; but, on hearing my Tread, he turning about, I perceived it to be one Mr. *Richards*, with whom I formerly went to School, and whom I had not (until that Moment) seen since.

AFTER

AFTER the first Salutations, he told me, That he had been in the Army near four Years, that he was now at E——, only on a Party of Pleasure, by Leave from his Commanding-Officer, to visit some near Relations; and that, soon after he return'd to Town, he should be obliged to go into *Scotland* with the Regiment: “But, for Heaven’s sake,” said I, Captain *Richards*, how came you to know that I was here, and then to find me out in this obscure Nook?” “It is some Time since,” replied the Captain, “that I was informed by some of our School-Mates, that you had sat your self down in the Lap of the *Muses*, but I had no Thoughts of meeting with you in this Place. Happening Yesterday on one of the Play-Bills, however, I saw your Name inserted among the rest; which gave me a good deal of Joy, as well as Surprize, I do assure you. I was so particularly engaged last Night, with a Heap of Women, that I could by no Means get from them to speak with you.

“FOR the Discovery of your Lodging, I am indebted to that miserable Son of a B——h, *Axalla*; who ran bump against me, at the Turn of a Corner, with a Quartern of *Cambridge* upon a Cabbage-Leaf in one Hand, and two Mutton Chops stuck upon a Skewer in the other. He was so full of Scrapes and Congees, and such high-flown Apologies for his ill Manners, that I could not tell what in the Name of Wonder to do with him, for it would have been in vain for me to have pretended to keep Pace with his Courtier-like Behaviour; so I took him fast hold by the Arm, and held him tight, until he resolved my Questions that I ask’d concerning you: And his Ceremony was so great, that he could not be contented with barely directing me my Way, but would needs run before to the very Door where you lodg’d, for which Kindness I hold myself much oblig’d to the Gentleman. But come,” continued he, smiling, what will you give me, for I am come to Breakfast with you?

“I AM sorry that I was so deficient in Point of good Manners,” said I, “Captain, as to suffer you to invite yourself; and yet I am pleas’d that my Neglect furnish’d

“ furnish'd an Opportunity of proving to me, by your Frankness, that your Friendship is not abated, notwithstanding the degraded Light, that (in the Generality of the World's Eye) I have the Unhappiness at present to appear under.” “ Prithee don't talk so idly,” resumed the Captain; “ an't we alike Lumps of animated Clay?—Some of harder, some of softer, some of brighter, others of duller Sort; but all from one and the same Source, and to the same End: And therefore the proud Man be d—n'd, say I, for the most contemptible of all Ideots.——But let us have this same Breakfast, do——for I am bloody hungry.”——“ Why then,” said I, “ I will give you some of the best Chocolate that ever you drank in your Life”—— and so I did.

C H A P. XXXIV.

Introduce Captain Richards, at his Request, to the Apartment of Mrs Ribspare——Description of it. A genteel Offer made to me by the Captain——I accept of it. Go to London with that Gentleman——His friendly Behaviour. Receive my Money from my Relations——and set sail for Africa.

AFTER we had breakfasted, the Captain expressed a great Inclination to be introduc'd to the Acquaintance of some of our Females. I told him, it fell out unluckily that we had no Rehearsal that Morning, or otherwise I could have taken him to the Review of a Group of Figures, that might have furnish'd him some pleasant Moments. “ I am sorry it has so happen'd,” said he; “ but, I suppose, you have Interest enough among the Ladies, to take me in your Hand to some of their Toilettes, which would be equally agreeable to me.” “ That I will, with all my Heart,” replied I; “ but, if you chance to find the Entertainment you have promised to yourself less in Fact than Idea, remember that it is yourself only you have to condemn for it.”

As the Captain had dropp'd some favourable Hints concerning Mrs. Ribspare, both as an Actress and a Woman,

Woman, I carried him to her Apartment; and making use of theatrical Liberty, ran up Stairs, without asking any Questions, to her Chamber-Door; which, being half open, we push'd in: Where such a Picture display'd itself, as although familiar to my Eyes, was strange enough to those of the Captain, who had figur'd to himself a much more voluptuous Scene than he met with.

ARPASIA, the Goddess to whom he came with a Design to pay his Devoirs, was at that Time washing some Childrens Clouts in a large red Pan, that now and then was indeed employ'd to better Purpose, *viz.* in the baking of a good Ox-Cheek, when they could afford it; and many other Offices it supplid in the Family, being (to do it Justice) of very great Help to them, either in Sicknefs or Health. — Her uncomb'd Tresses hung about her Ears, matted with the Flour and Pomatum she had made use of the Night before—Her Shift-Sleeves (if she had any) were tuck'd under her Gown, which was a Linen one, dirty and ragged—She never wore Stays, except on the Stage, or some very particular Occasion; so that her Breasts appear'd through a black Gauze Handkerchief, to no very great Advantage—Her Features (as elsewhere observ'd) were good; but her Excesses at some Times, and her Penu-ry at others, had occasion'd such fiery Exuberances, as had greatly damag'd what might otherways have past very well at Noon-Day, and still was a good Candle-light Face—Her red worsted Stockings were about her Heels, and her ragged Callimancoe Shoes slipt, the Straps of one of them fasten'd together with a Tenpen-ny Nail.

In one Corner of the Room, on the Floor, lay a most miserable Bed; the party-colour'd Sheets of which were enough to turn the strongest Stomach in *England*, without the additional Help of four half starv'd, quite-na- ked, mock-royal Little Ones, all over besmear'd with Snot and Treacle.

To compleat the Draught of this Family, the Husband was drying of his Wife's Small-Cloaths by the Fire, after a very singular Fashion. As fast as she wrung them out, they were pinned upon him; here a Stocking

stocking, there a Clout, here a Cap, there a Handkerchief, from his Head to his Heel; whilst he kept turning gradually round, with no Part of him visible except his Hands and Face, and cut the most grotesque Figure that I ever beheld. "See wha, a, a, at you must co, o, o, o, ome to, Master *Du Ple, e, e, e, effis,*" said he, "when you get ma, a, a, a, arried. You'll never repe, e, e, ent it but o, o, o, once, and tha, a, a, a, at will be a, a, a, all your Li, i, i, ife-Time. My Wi, i, i, ife has made a Ho, o, o, o, rse of me here, you see." "Aye, aye, replied I, laughing, "a Horse, or an Ass, or any Thing that a good Wife pleases; and happy the Man that can get her too, for they are not to be picked up at every Turn—But pray can you lend me the Book of the *Spanish Fryar*?"

THIS I us'd as my Excuse for calling on them, and, having receiv'd it, took my Leave: not a Moment too soon for the Captain, who could hardly stay 'till he got down, before he fell to exclaiming against the Object he had so much admir'd the Night before. I ask'd him, If he chose to pay his Compliments to any of the rest of our Ladies? He replied, No, there was not one amongst them that, with all the additional Graces they had made Use of, he had thought worth a single Look, except the Person we had just come from; and, as she had turn'd out such a *Faux Brilliant*, he would have nothing to say to any more of them.

THE Captain being engag'd to Dinner, I here parted from him, but promis'd to meet him at his Inn in the Evening. I did so: and, among other Particulars, I acquainted him with my Resolution to leave the Company of those miserable Wretches—"And what do you then intend," said he, "to do with yourself?" "Go to some other People of the same Sort?" "No, indeed," replied I, "I am sufficiently tir'd of the assum'd, and am now determin'd to engage in some real Character in Life.

I, AT his Request, entertain'd him, during the Course of the Evening, with that Part of my History he was 'till then a Stranger to, and which he profess'd gave him much Pleasure in the Recapitulation. He made me promise to Breakfast with him the next Day, which I did; and he at that Time propos'd to me, That if I was inclinable to see still more of the World than I had yet done,

he

he would make such Interest for me with his Brother, who was one of the Directors of the Royal *African* Company, that he was very certain would procure me a Settlement, productive both of Honour and Profit.

I THANK'D him for his intended Favour, and told him nothing in the World could fall out more correspondent with my natural Disposition, which was ever prone to rambling: And after about a Week's longer Stay at *E—*, I sat out with Captain *Richards* in a Post-Chaise for *London*; where that Gentleman (finding that I did not chuse to go near my Relations, until I had a just Right to settle all Accounts with them) generously lent me Fifty Pounds on my Note, payable three Months after Date.

I THEN went and discharged the Obligations I was under to my honest old Landlord in *Eastcheap*, whom I still found hearty and well, and in the same Shop: I next visited *Formal* and his Wife, and did the same by them. I was almost every Day with my Friend and original Master *Dapper*; who much approved my Resolution of quitting a Business, himself (although in a much more capital Light of it than I had been) found full of Cares and Perplexities.

WHILST I was regaling away thus with my old Friends and Acquaintance, Captain *Richards* was not idle in my Behalf. He had settled all Things on my Account with his Brother, in a Manner that he imagined would prove agreeable to me; and when no Article remained, but the Ceremony of my being presented to the honourable Board of Directors, he let me know as much: And withal appointed me to meet him at his Brother's House in *Crutched-Friars*, who was so good as to introduce me himself to the other Gentlemen, for their Approbation; which he before told me he was certain of, only this was a necessary Form that must be complied with.

I WAS accordingly entered in the Royal Company's Books, as an Assistant for one of their Factories on the River *Gambia*. In less than three Months after that Appointment, I made an End of all Affairs with my Relations, stock'd myself with every Thing necessary, and set sail with the first Ship that departed for the Coast of *Africa*.